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3 **Clay mineral evolution**

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15
16 **ABSTRACT**

17 Changes in the mechanisms of formation and global distribution of phyllosilicate clay
18 minerals through 4.567 Ga of planetary evolution in our Solar System reflect evolving tectonic,
19 geochemical, and biological processes. Clay minerals were absent prior to planetesimal
20 formation approximately 4.6 billion years ago but today are abundant in all near-surface Earth
21 environments. New clay mineral species and modes of clay mineral paragenesis occurred as a
22 consequence of major events in Earth's evolution—notably the formation of a mafic crust and
23 oceans, the emergence of granite-rooted continents, the initiation of plate tectonics and
24 subduction, the Great Oxidation Event, and the rise of the terrestrial biosphere. The changing
25 character of clay minerals through time is thus an important part of Earth's mineralogical history
26 and exemplifies the principles of mineral evolution.

27 **Keywords:** Clay minerals, biominerals, weathering, diagenesis, Mars mineralogy

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INTRODUCTION

31

32 The mineralogy of terrestrial planets, moons, and asteroids diversified as physical, chemical,
33 and (in the case of Earth) biological processes modified the initially relatively homogeneous
34 material of the solar nebula into differentiated zones of varied temperature, pressure, and
35 composition. Earth's 4.567 billion year history, as a consequence, can be divided into three eras
36 and ten stages of mineral evolution, each of which has seen significant changes in the planet's
37 near-surface mineralogy (Hazen et al. 2008, 2011; Table 1). These dramatic changes include
38 diversification in the number of different mineral species; shifts in the distribution of those
39 species; systematic changes in major, minor, and trace element compositions of minerals; and the
40 appearance of new grain sizes, textures, and/or morphologies. The concept of mineral evolution
41 thus places mineralogy in a dynamic historical context, in which different mineral species and
42 mineralogical characteristics arose at different stages of planetary history as new modes of
43 mineral paragenesis came into play. However, the initial presentation of this framework by
44 Hazen et al. (2008) did not examine any one group of minerals in detail. Here we consider the
45 important case of the evolution of phyllosilicate clay minerals, which, possibly more than any
46 other mineral groups, exemplify the connections among the geosphere, hydrosphere, and
47 biosphere (Elmore 2009).

48 It is likely that no phyllosilicate clay minerals were present in the pre-solar molecular cloud,
49 which contained approximately a dozen micro- and nanoscale refractory "ur-minerals" (Hazen et
50 al. 2008). Yet, although clay minerals were absent during the initial high-temperature stages of
51 planet formation, they now represent an important component of the near-surface crustal
52 environment of Earth, Mars, and the parent bodies of carbonaceous chondrite meteorites. They
53 also represent perhaps the most important class of minerals with which mankind interacts on a

54 daily basis. Therefore, understanding the evolution of clay minerals as products of physical,
55 chemical, and biological alteration processes is critical for understanding the mineralogical
56 history of Earth and other worlds. Indeed, clay minerals provide a revealing case study for
57 Earth's changing mineralogy through time for at least six reasons. (1) Clay minerals first
58 appeared in the early stages of planetary accretion and have been ubiquitous near-surface phases
59 throughout our planet's history. (2) The 10 groups and more than 50 species of phyllosilicate
60 clay minerals officially recognized by the International Mineralogical Association arise through
61 varied paragenetic modes that parallel changing near-surface conditions and processes. (3) All of
62 the principal clay mineral structure types are compositionally adaptable with diverse cations in
63 tetrahedral, octahedral, and interlayer sites. Therefore, major, minor, and trace elements are
64 likely to have varied systematically through time and thus reflect changing near-surface
65 conditions, including compositions of parent rocks, solution chemistry, and redox state. (4) Clay
66 minerals exemplify mineralogical feedback mechanisms: for example, some clay minerals
67 strongly interact with organic molecules, so sedimentary burial of clay minerals can sequester
68 reduced carbon and thus enhance atmospheric oxidation (e.g., Berner 2004), which in turn
69 affects the nature and rate of clay mineral formation. (5) Clay minerals have played a significant
70 role in the mineralogy of Mars, and they hold the potential to reveal details of the evolution of
71 the near-surface martian environment. And (6) clay minerals highlight the co-evolution of
72 Earth's geosphere and biosphere: Clays likely played critical roles in the origin of life, and life
73 has played a dramatic role in the production of near-surface clay minerals. Note, however, that in
74 spite of fascinating "clay origin of life" speculations by Cairns-Smith and coworkers, who posit
75 that the first life forms were self-replicating and evolving clay mineral assemblages (Cairns-
76 Smith and Hartman 1986; Cairns-Smith 2005; Schumann et al. 2012), observational evidence

77 does not support the contention that clay minerals “evolve” from prior generations by common
78 descent. Mineral evolution instead refers to the tendency of Earth’s near-surface environment to
79 display congruent complexification, and thus to parallel other evolving natural and technological
80 systems (Hazen and Eldredge 2010).

81 Understanding Earth’s changing near-surface clay mineralogy through deep time is
82 complicated by the fact that most of Earth’s early clay mineral record has been erased as a result
83 of burial, tectonic activity, alteration, and erosion. In this respect, the study of clay mineral
84 evolution presents challenges related to preservational bias that are much more extreme than
85 those of some other mineral systems (Hazen et al. 2009, 2012, 2013; Grew and Hazen 2009,
86 2010a, 2010b, 2013; Golden et al. 2013). Nevertheless, much about the 4.5 billion year
87 evolutionary history of clays can be inferred from observations of the rock record and studies of
88 modern clay-forming processes.

89 Our objective is to trace the changing diversity, distribution, and environments of clay
90 minerals from planetary accretion to the modern terrestrial biological era through ten stages of
91 mineral evolution (Table 1). We focus on several overarching questions: What were Earth’s first
92 clay minerals? When and how did they form? What new clay minerals were associated with the
93 formation of granitoids, the initiation of plate tectonics, and the Great Oxidation Event? How
94 have the rates of clay mineral production changed over geological time? How does the
95 distribution of clay minerals in the terrestrial environment reflect changes in atmospheric
96 composition? And what effects have biological organisms had on clay mineral production? To
97 address these questions we examine roles of the principal paragenetic modes of clay mineral
98 formation through 10 stages of Earth’s mineral evolution.

99

CLAY MINERAL GROUPS AND SPECIES

100

101 Our survey of clay mineral evolution focuses on predominantly fine-grained ($< 2 \mu\text{m}$) layered
102 phyllosilicate minerals (Guggenheim and Martin 1995), including 56 clay mineral species that
103 have been approved by the International Mineralogical Association based on criteria of
104 composition and structure [see the RRUFF database (<http://rruff.info>; Downs 2006); Table 2].
105 The phyllosilicate clay minerals considered here include the kaolin and serpentine groups, the
106 talc and pyrophyllite groups, the expandable smectite and vermiculite groups, the illite group, the
107 chlorite group, and the sepiolite-palygorskite group. Although locally important, we do not
108 systematically treat interstratified clay mineral assemblages, or layered oxide hydroxides, or
109 other phases (including amorphous phases) closely associated with phyllosilicate clay minerals
110 (Table 3).

111 In spite of the official status of species listed in Table 2, ambiguous terminology complicates
112 the study of clay minerals, which can be defined in terms of particle size, major-element
113 chemistry, and/or structure. Natural “clay” samples are commonly complex mixtures of both
114 layered phyllosilicates and other oxide-hydroxide phases, such as gibbsite $[\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3]$, brucite
115 $[\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2]$, allophane $[\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(\text{SiO}_2)_{1.3-2.0} \cdot 2.5-3.0\text{H}_2\text{O}]$, imogolite $[\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_3(\text{OH})_4]$, and
116 nanocrystalline iron oxide-hydroxides. Many clay minerals also lack the three-dimensional order
117 of most mineral species, which complicates accurate description and understanding of their
118 crystal structures. In addition, natural clay accumulations rarely display mono-mineralic
119 properties. Complex solid solutions among multiple end-members and interstratification in fine-
120 grained phyllosilicates make unambiguous identification of valid species difficult, whereas some
121 oft-cited clay-type materials such as attapulgite, bauxite, bentonite, phengite, and steatite are not
122 recognized as valid mineral species (Table 3). Furthermore, the nomenclature approved by the

123 Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles (AIPEA; Guggenheim et al. 2006, 2007) for
124 clay mineral groups and species is not entirely consistent with that of the IMA.

125

126 ***The Kaolin Group:*** The kaolin group includes the kaolinite, dickite, nacrite, and halloysite-7Å
127 polymorphs of $\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$, which are dioctahedral 1:1 clay minerals in which a single
128 octahedral sheet is bonded to a single tetrahedral sheet to yield a $\sim 7\text{Å}$ c-axis repeat (Keller 1970;
129 Joussein et al. 2005). Halloysite $[\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}; 0 < n < 2]$ occurs as a solid-solution
130 series between halloysite-7Å with $n = 0$ and halloysite-10Å with $n = 2$ (Bailey 1980;
131 Guggenheim and Eggleton 1988; Joussein et al. 2005). Hisingerite $[(\text{Fe}^{3+})_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ is
132 the ferric iron isomorph of halloysite-10Å (Eggleton and Tilley 1998).

133

134 ***The Serpentine Group:*** Serpentine group minerals, including several species encompassed by
135 the general formula $[(\text{Mg}, \text{Ni}^{2+}, \text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Zn}, \text{Fe}^{3+}, \text{Al})_3(\text{Al}, \text{Fe}^{3+}, \text{Si})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$, are trioctahedral
136 1:1 layer phyllosilicates with a $\sim 7\text{-Å}$ c-axis repeat. The serpentine group most often occurs in
137 grain sizes larger than those of true clay minerals (i.e., $> 2 \mu\text{m}$). However, we include it here
138 because of its close structural similarity to the dioctahedral kaolin group and because the
139 serpentine group does include some clay-sized occurrences (including a very early clay-sized
140 fraction in some altered chondrites from stage 2 of mineral evolution; Weaver 1989; Brearley
141 and Jones 1998; Zega et al. 2003). The serpentine group includes at least 15 recognized mineral
142 species, including several Mn, Ni, and Zn species that form in altered ore deposits (Table 2).
143 Note, however, that (as with most clay mineral groups) many of these “species” exhibit complete
144 solid solution among more than a dozen chemical elements and that strict species identification is
145 often difficult.

146

147 **The Talc and Pyrophyllite Groups:** The trioctahedral 2:1 talc group, including talc
148 $[\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2]$ and several isomorphs, are clay minerals with the 10-Å mica-like tetrahedral
149 and octahedral layer arrangement, but without interlayer cations owing to their lack of a layer
150 charge. Pyrophyllite $[\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2]$ is the dioctahedral 2:1 phyllosilicate with no layer charge.

151

152 **The Smectite and Vermiculite Groups:** Smectites and vermiculites are expandable 2:1 clay
153 minerals, containing variable amounts of interlayer cations and H_2O molecules (Bailey 1984;
154 Severman et al. 2004; Güven 2009). They include at least 11 IMA-approved species (Table 2),
155 including the important minerals montmorillonite $[(\text{Na},\text{K},\frac{1}{2}\text{Ca})_{0.3}(\text{Al},\text{Mg})_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}]$
156 (the primary constituent of bentonite), beidellite $[(\text{K},\text{Na},\frac{1}{2}\text{Ca})_{0.3}\text{Al}_2(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}]$, and
157 nontronite $[\text{Na}_{0.3}\text{Fe}^{3+}_2(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}]$. These phases expand in the presence of water by
158 hydration of their interlayer cations, and their interlayer cations are readily exchangeable. The
159 weak interlayer bonding leads to poorly ordered crystals, and turbostratic stacking (Bailey 1984)
160 results in broad X-ray diffraction features that complicate identification. Both smectite- and
161 vermiculite-group minerals are generally so disordered that it is not possible to define a three-
162 dimensional crystal structure (Grim 1968; Mering 1975; Brindley 1980).

163

164 **The Illite Group:** Illite $\{[\text{K}_{0.6}(\text{H}_3\text{O})_{0.4}]\text{Al}_{1.3}\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Fe}^{2+}_{0.1}\text{Si}_{3.5}\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})\}$ and glauconite
165 $\{[\text{K},\text{Na},(\text{H}_3\text{O})^+]_x(\text{Mg},\text{Fe}^{2+},\text{Al},\text{Fe}^{3+})_2(\text{Al},\text{Si})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}\}$ are 10-Å dioctahedral, non-
166 expandable “hydrated micas” that can incorporate variable amounts of H_2O molecules with
167 interlayer cations, such as sodium and potassium. Illite is commonly found interstratified with
168 other clay minerals, most often with smectite. Note that the official IMA status of illite and

169 glauconite is pending, and phengite $[K(Mg,Al)_2(Si,Al)_4O_{10}(OH)_2]$, which was once included in
170 this group, has been discredited as a distinct mineral species. Note, however, that “phengite” is
171 still commonly cited as a morphologically distinct metamorphic modification of illite.

172

173 ***The Chlorite Group:*** All species of the chlorite group, with general formula
174 $[(Li,Mg,Ni,Zn,Cr,Fe^{2+},Mn^{2+},Fe^{3+},Al)_{5-6}(Si,Al,Fe^{3+},B)_4O_{10}(OH)_8]$, have a 14-Å 2:1:1 layer
175 structure; that is they have a 2:1 layer structure with an additional octahedral sheet in the
176 interlayer region. As a result, it is possible to have four structural variants of chlorites, with
177 either a di- or trioctahedral sheet in both the 2:1 layer and the interlayer octahedral sheet.
178 Trioctahedral ferromagnesian chlorite-group minerals, including clinochlore $[Mg_6Si_4O_{10}(OH)_8]$
179 and chamosite $[(Fe^{2+},Mg,Al,Fe^{3+})_6(Si,Al)_4O_{10}(OH,O)_8]$, are the most common species and are
180 found in low-grade metamorphic rocks as alteration products of pyroxenes, amphiboles, biotite,
181 and garnet (Alt et al. 1995; Klein and Hurlbut 1999; Alt and Bach 2001).

182

183 ***The Palygorskite and Sepiolite Group:*** Palygorskite and sepiolite [ideally
184 $(Mg,Al)_2Si_4O_{10}(OH)4H_2O$ and $Mg_4Si_6O_{15}(OH)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, respectively] are distinctive fibrous
185 chain-structured clay minerals that are relatively uncommon in nature (Bailey 1988a). Minerals
186 of these groups differ by incorporating two (in palygorskite) and three (in sepiolite) pyroxene-
187 like chains. The tetrahedral layers can be considered to be continuous, although they flip every
188 two or three chain widths.

189

190 ***Related “Clay-like” (Non-Phyllosilicate) Materials:*** Although not the main focus of this article,
191 a number of accessory non-phyllosilicate “clay-like” minerals are important in the context of

192 clay mineral evolution. The amorphous phases allophane, imogolite, and neotocite
193 $[(\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Fe}^{2+})\text{SiO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}]$, all of which are found in soils associated with the weathering of volcanic
194 ashes and glasses (Bates 1962; Dudas and Harward 1975; Su and Harsh 1998; Dubroeuq et al.
195 1998; Churchman 2000), possess disordered structures (Wada 1989). Gibbsite, which is
196 commonly found in highly weathered environments such as laterites, and brucite, which occurs
197 in altered or weathered ultramafic rocks and in serpentine-brucite-magnetite assemblages during
198 serpentinization, are common layered hydroxides with $\sim 4\text{-}\text{\AA}$ layer thickness. These hydroxides
199 are similar to the “octahedral sheet” components of phyllosilicates. Nanophase iron oxide-
200 hydroxides, also commonly associated with clay mineral assemblages, are extremely redox
201 sensitive and thus important in Earth’s mineral evolution.

202 Different sheet arrangements, random stacking of interstratified hydroxide and phyllosilicate
203 layers, variable chemical substitutions, variable hydration states, and numerous other defects
204 complicate the description of natural clay minerals and clay assemblages and often blur a precise
205 formal definition of what constitutes a clay mineral species. In particular, interstratified clays, for
206 example illite/smectite, are ubiquitous in diagenetic sequences in pelitic rocks and are often
207 found in soils and regoliths. In addition, soil smectites also commonly contain partially
208 developed hydroxide interlayers, essentially forming material intermediate between smectite and
209 chlorite.

210

211

CLAY MINERAL EVOLUTION

212 Hazen et al. (2008) described three eras of Earth's mineral evolution, further divided into ten
213 partly overlapping stages (Table 1). The first era of planetary accretion is represented by
214 approximately 60 primary condensate minerals identified in primitive chondrite meteorites (stage
215 1), and the much more diverse suite of minerals produced by alteration and differentiation in
216 achondrites and other meteorites (stage 2).

217 The second era of crust and mantle reworking is represented by three stages of mineral
218 evolution. For the purposes of clay mineral evolution, we define stage 3 as the earliest part of the
219 Hadean Eon following Earth's differentiation at ~4.5 Ga—a time characterized by the formation
220 and alteration of an ultramafic and basaltic lithospheric veneer, as well as the first (presumably
221 shallow) hydrosphere. Stage 4, which may also have begun during the Hadean Eon, commenced
222 with the production of granitoids and associated pegmatites by partial melting of stage-3 basalts,
223 as well as by other granitization mechanisms. Stage 5 saw the activation of large-scale plate
224 tectonic processes and fluid-rock interactions associated with subduction, convergent margin
225 orogenesis, and exposure of deep metamorphic terrains. Note that the timings of stages 4 and 5
226 remain matters of considerable debate. Therefore, for the purposes of this review (and unlike the
227 chronology suggested in Hazen et al. 2008) we do not assign specific time intervals to the
228 earliest occurrences of granite formation and subduction.

229 The third era of Earth's mineral evolution focuses on the co-evolution of the geo- and
230 biospheres. Prior to ~2.5 Ga microbial activity altered Earth's surface in an anoxic environment
231 (stage 6). The Great Oxidation Event (~2.4 to 2.2 Ga; stage 7) triggered the greatest episode of
232 mineral diversification. The subsequent billion-year interval, an intriguing time known as the
233 "intermediate ocean" (Anbar and Knoll 2002; stage 8), saw no obvious new modes of mineral

234 paragenesis, though additional focus is needed on the apparent mineralogical diversification of
235 this time period associated with the assembly of the Rodinian supercontinent (Grew and Hazen
236 2009, 2010a, 2013; Hazen et al. 2012). Snowball Earth episodes of global glaciation (stage 9)
237 served as preludes for increased atmospheric oxidation and the modern period of
238 biomineralization (stage 10). In this section we explore how each of these three eras and ten
239 stages of mineral evolution are characterized in terms of the diversity, distributions, and
240 environments of clay minerals.

241 The key to understanding the evolution of clay minerals lies in their varied modes of
242 paragenesis. Clay minerals found at or near Earth's surface commonly arise from five partly
243 overlapping processes, each of which was initiated at a different stage of Earth's mineral
244 evolution (Table 1), and each of which introduced new clay species and rates of clay mineral
245 production.

246 (1) *Aqueous alteration*: Aqueous alteration, including hydrothermal alteration and
247 serpentinization, of pre-existing minerals has been an important clay-forming process since
248 before Earth's accretion. Aqueous alteration within planetesimals produced the first minor
249 quantities of clay minerals (stage 2). Subsequently, serpentinization of basalt and other mafic
250 igneous lithologies (stage 3), coupled with seawater-basalt interactions, were the first
251 volumetrically significant engine of clay mineralization. Aqueous alteration of diverse igneous,
252 sedimentary, and metamorphic lithologies has remained an important paragenetic mode for clay
253 minerals throughout Earth history and is active today.

254 (2) *Authigenesis*: Direct precipitation of authigenic clays, especially from solution in marine
255 sediments, alkaline lakes, and restricted marine environments [but also possibly from higher
256 temperature magmatic fluids (Meunier et al. 2012)], represents a second, although volumetrically

257 less important, mode of clay mineral paragenesis. Such a mechanism may have occurred on a
258 significant scale early in Earth's history, as sediments accumulated on the basaltic floor of the
259 Hadean ocean. This accumulation of thick clay mineral-bearing marine sediments may have
260 preceded the formation and erosion of the first granitic protocontinents (stage 4).

261 (3) *Diagenesis*: Clay minerals commonly form during diagenesis in sedimentary basins and
262 during low-grade metamorphism (to greenschist facies) of varied lithologies, often including
263 alteration of pre-existing clay minerals. Such clay-forming processes undoubtedly have operated
264 since early in Earth's history. However, the surface manifestation of initially deep metamorphic
265 terrains and the large-scale production of metamorphic clay minerals were probably not
266 significant prior to the advent of plate tectonics (stage 5) and the exposure of deep crustal rocks
267 through orogenesis. However, the detection of clay minerals associated with large ancient impact
268 craters on Mars suggests that impact events may have played an important role in generating
269 localized hydrothermal systems and excavating deep crustal rocks (Mustard et al. 2008; Carter et
270 al. 2010; Ehlmann et al. 2011), and the same may have been true for early Earth (Pirajno 2009).

271 (4) *Terrestrial weathering*: Near-surface terrestrial weathering reactions are an important
272 mode of clay mineral formation. Weathering must have produced minor amounts of clay
273 minerals on early Earth, notably in the acidic environments of active volcanoes (stage 3) and on
274 the earliest anoxic protocontinents (stage 4). However, production of clay minerals through
275 oxidative weathering was not a significant factor until the Great Oxidation Event (stage 7),
276 which not only saw the dramatically increased production of near-surface terrestrial clays, but
277 also likely resulted in several new species of ferric iron clay minerals and extensive formation of
278 lateritic soils.

279 (5) *Biomediated clay mineralization*: The rise of a terrestrial biosphere, most notably the
280 advent of soil-forming microbes, fungi, and plants (stage 10), marked a dramatic transition in the
281 diversity and rate of clay mineral production. Biological weathering in the Phanerozoic Eon may
282 have increased the rate of terrestrial clay production by an order of magnitude (e.g., Ueshima and
283 Tazaki 1998; Kim et al. 2004; Tazaki 2005), and it is likely that the compositional ranges, and
284 possibly some specific clay mineral species formed as products of biological weathering, were
285 distinct from those previously formed abiotically (e.g., Shelobolina et al. 2003; Stucki and
286 Kostka 2006; Dong 2012).

287

288 ***Stage 1—Pre-accretionary Processes (4.56 Ga)***: About a dozen different micro- and nanoscale
289 refractory “ur-minerals” have been identified in presolar grains (Brearley and Jones 1998; Nittler
290 2003; Table 2a in Hazen et al. 2008). Gravitational clumping of nebular material, primarily H,
291 He, small molecular species, and presolar dust, led to star formation and the resultant heating of
292 the protoplanetary disk. This heating produced the primary refractory constituents of chondritic
293 meteorites with their approximately 60 different known mineral phases (stage 1; Table 2b-e in
294 Hazen et al. 2008). All minerals from these earliest stages of mineral diversification are high-
295 temperature condensates and thus clay minerals are unlikely to have formed during (or prior to)
296 these earliest pre-accretionary events in Earth’s mineralogical history.

297

298 ***Stage 2—Post-accretionary Processes (4.56-4.55 Ga)***: As chondritic material accumulated
299 through gravitational clumping into planetesimals, core-mantle differentiation and progressive
300 aqueous, thermal, and shock alteration led to the ~250 different minerals that have been
301 identified in meteorite samples (Brearley and Jones 1998; Krot et al. 2006; Brearley 2006;

302 MacPherson 2004). Low-temperature (<100 °C) aqueous alteration of preexisting condensates
303 produced the earliest known clay minerals, which are now found in a variety of meteorites
304 (Tables 1 and 2). Almost all types of carbonaceous chondrites, including CI, CM, CO, CV, and
305 CR chondrites, experienced secondary aqueous alteration that produced clay minerals (Brearley
306 and Jones 1998).

307 The matrices of many primitive CI chondrites are dominated (>50 to 60 %) by clay minerals,
308 including Mg-Fe serpentine-group minerals and saponite
309 $[(\text{Ca},\text{Na})_{0.3}(\text{Mg},\text{Fe}^{2+})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}]$, with minor chlorite (Brearley and Prinz 1992).
310 The Mg-Fe serpentine-group minerals cronstedtite $[(\text{Fe}^{2+}_2\text{Fe}^{3+})_3(\text{Si},\text{Fe}^{3+})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$, chrysotile
311 $[\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$, and greenalite $[(\text{Fe}^{2+},\text{Fe}^{3+})_{2-3}\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$ and berthierine-group minerals also
312 comprise a significant fraction of the matrix in CM chondrites, with reports of the smectite-group
313 mineral saponite, as well (Brearley and Jones 1998; Zega et al. 2003). Saponite is also a common
314 constituent of the altered matrix of CV and CR chondrites, and secondary alteration of Ca-Al
315 inclusions (CAIs) in CV-type chondrites results in montmorillonite and possibly serpentine and
316 saponite (Tomeoka and Buseck 1990). Clay mineral production may have been accelerated in the
317 presence of oxalate and other polar organic molecules found in carbonaceous meteorites
318 (Schumann et al. 2012).

319 In addition to clay minerals formed during aqueous alteration of chondrite meteorites,
320 interplanetary dust particles also display a range of clay minerals formed by secondary alteration
321 of ferromagnesian silicates (Reitmeijer 1998). Thus, at least 9 Mg- and/or Fe-bearing clay
322 mineral species, most of them serpentines and smectites, were produced in the solar nebula,
323 principally by aqueous alteration contemporaneously with Earth's accretion, and they are
324 recorded from stage 2 (Table 1). Note that Reitmeijer et al. (2006) also propose that some clay-

325 bearing assemblages might form under metastable eutectic conditions, whereas Meunier et al.
326 (2012) invoke “magmatic precipitation” of clay minerals. However, other modes of clay mineral
327 paragenesis, including authigenic formation in sediments, surface weathering and oxidation, or
328 biologically mediated mineralization, would not have occurred during stage 2.

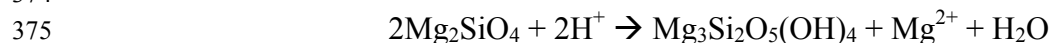
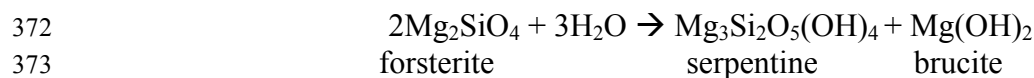
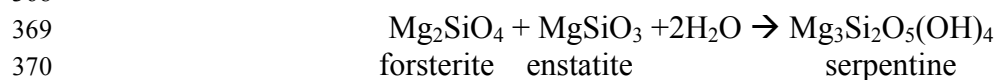
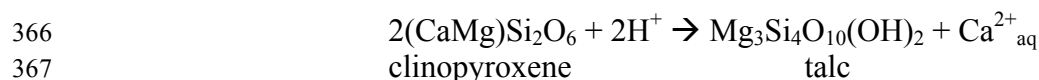
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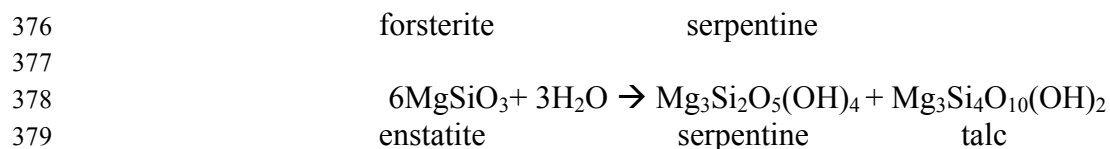
330 **Stage 3—Earliest Hadean Earth (<4.55 Ga):** Stage 3 of Earth’s mineral evolution was
331 dominated by the production and subsequent alteration of near-surface ultramafic and mafic
332 rocks. Igneous processes, including volcanism and degassing, fractional crystallization, crystal
333 settling, and assimilation reactions, led to the familiar Bowen’s reaction series (Bowen 1928). On
334 volatile-poor (i.e., essentially anhydrous in their near-surface environments) terrestrial bodies
335 such as Mercury and the Moon, which likely only progressed through stage 3 of mineral
336 evolution, clay minerals cannot represent volumetrically significant phases. [A possible
337 exception might occur in hydrothermal zones beneath the shaded margins of ice-filled craters
338 near the poles of these bodies (Lawrence et al. 2013).] However, on volatile-rich bodies such as
339 Earth and Mars, as many as 420 mineral phases, including a potential suite of 25 clay minerals
340 (Tables 1 and 2), may have been present in the near-surface environment from the earliest
341 period, primarily as a result of aqueous alteration and low-temperature metamorphism of
342 ultramafic and mafic lithologies (Hazen 2013). We estimate that 16 of these clay minerals
343 appeared for the first time in Stage 3 (Tables 1 and 2). Several clay minerals with presumed
344 similar parageneses have now been detected in the ancient crust of Mars, which is thought to
345 have formed during this time period.

346 This mineralogical diversification on Earth was halted when the crust and outer mantle were
347 violently disrupted and melted by the Moon-forming impact event at ~4.55 Ga (Tonks and

348 Melosh 1993; Ruzicka et al. 1999; Touboul et al. 2007). Immediately following that catastrophic
349 event, Earth's near-surface mineralogy was reset as a consequence of igneous rock
350 crystallization. Intense volcanism and associated mantle outgassing rapidly produced a water-
351 rich near-surface environment, with globe-spanning shallow oceans probably forming prior to
352 4.4 Ga (Wilde et al. 2001). Aqueous low-temperature reactions, surface weathering, and
353 hydrothermal alteration of the ultramafic and basaltic crust may have resulted in the extensive
354 production of trioctahedral ferromagnesian clay minerals.

355 Earth's earliest rocks, including komatiities, peridotites, basalts, and other ultramafic and
356 mafic volcanics (Arndt and Nisbet 1982; Rollinson 2007; Papineau 2010), were dominated by
357 the Mg-Fe silicates olivine [(Mg,Fe)₂SiO₄], orthopyroxene [(Mg,Fe)SiO₃], and clinopyroxene
358 [(Mg,Fe,Ca)SiO₃]. Hydrothermal alteration of these ferromagnesian minerals was initiated by the
359 high solubility of Mg. Indeed, primary olivine and pyroxene are often completely altered,
360 making it difficult to determine the initial compositions of some ancient ultramafic rocks. Mg-Fe
361 silicates typically alter via serpentinization reactions (Schrenk et al. 2013) to trioctahedral
362 ferromagnesian clays, including serpentine, talc, and chlorite, which were thus Earth's first
363 volumetrically significant clay minerals. Typical clay-forming alteration reactions of olivine and
364 pyroxenes (Deer et al. 1962; Harder 1976; Fontanaud and Meunier 1983; Newman 1987; Nozaka
365 et al. 2008) include:





381 In addition to serpentinization reactions, interactions between basalt and seawater that lead to
382 seafloor basalt weathering have been a major source of clay minerals throughout Earth history,
383 as well as a significant source of dissolved ionic species in seawater (Scarfe and Smith 1977;
384 Hajash and Archer 1980; Papavassiliou and Cosgrove 1981; Seyfried and Mottl 1982; Thompson
385 1983; Daughney et al. 2004). Weathering products commonly include dioctahedral and
386 trioctahedral smectites, as well as poorly ordered smectite-chlorite mixed layerings.

387 Aqueous alteration of ferromagnesian minerals is often characterized by a sequence of clay
388 minerals with decreasing Mg/Si; for example, olivine may be first serpentinized to antigorite,
389 chrysotile, and lizardite [all forms of $\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$] and later be replaced by other clay
390 minerals, including vermiculite [$\text{Mg}_{0.7}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{3+}, \text{Al})_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$], mixed-layer
391 saponite-talc, and saponite (Velde 1985; Alt and Bach 2001; Blackman et al. 2006; Caillaud et
392 al. 2006; Nozaka et al. 2008). Note that serpentinization is a significantly exothermic process for
393 compositions more Mg-rich than Fo25 (Oze and Sharma 2006). Consequently, extensive Hadean
394 clay mineralization likely represented a significant component of near-surface heat flow.

395 Ultramafic and mafic lithologies are also characterized by primary Ca and Al silicates,
396 including amphiboles and plagioclase feldspars, which are subject to deep-sea weathering. The
397 amphiboles tremolite [$\square \text{Ca}_2\text{Mg}_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$], actinolite [$\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$], and
398 magnesiohornblende [$\square \text{Ca}_2[\text{Mg}_4(\text{Al}, \text{Fe}^{3+})]\text{Si}_7\text{AlO}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$] commonly alter to clay minerals
399 (Jayananda et al. 2008). Proust et al. (2006) observed that alteration of calcic amphibole
400 produced a sequence of four clay minerals as a function of crystallization sites in a single
401 amphibole crystal: (1) saponite; (2) montmorillonite; (3) interstratified kaolinite/smectite; and (4)

402 halloysite. Thus, deposits with multiple coexisting clay mineral species can result from alteration
403 of a single progenitor. Similarly, Garvie and Metcalfe (1997) report a vein occurrence of co-
404 existing talc, saponite, and corrensite $[(Ca,Na,K)_{1-x}(Mg,Fe,Al)_9(Si,Al)_8O_{20}(OH)_{10} \cdot nH_2O]$, and
405 Stakes and O'Neil (1982) found coexisting actinolite, smectite, vermiculite, talc, chlorite,
406 saponite, and chlorite-smectite.

407 In addition to extensive serpentinization, diagenetic clay-forming processes may have been
408 significant at this stage. The ocean floors, covered by fresh basalt with minimal sediment
409 overburden and relatively high heat flow, would have facilitated diagenetic production of
410 saponite and perhaps nontronite. However, given the likely localized and volumetrically minimal
411 deposits of Hadean marine sediments, the production of non-aluminous authigenic clay minerals
412 may have been restricted. Anoxic, CO₂-rich surface weathering of volcanic islands that rose
413 above the global Hadean ocean, with possible associated production of montmorillonite,
414 saponite, and sepiolite, would have been similarly localized and volumetrically minor. Note also
415 that in the absence of extensive felsic granitic lithologies (i.e., stage 4), Fe-Mg trioctahedral clay
416 minerals would have volumetrically exceeded Al-Fe³⁺ dioctahedral clay minerals in anoxic
417 environments.

418 The presence of an anoxic near-surface environment during stage 3 would have affected the
419 redox state of clay minerals. Ferrous iron would have dominated ferric iron, thereby further
420 exaggerating the dominance of trioctahedral versus dioctahedral clay species. Thus, saponite is
421 likely to have been far more abundant than vermiculite, and ferripyrophyllite $[Fe^{3+}_2Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2]$,
422 nontronite, and other predominantly ferric iron clay minerals may not have formed at all.
423 Furthermore, unaltered serpentines, smectites, and chlorites from stage 3 are likely to differ
424 systematically in their transition metal chemistry from more recent samples in both major and

425 minor elements. These distinctive characteristics of Hadean clays are potentially significant for
426 origins-of-life scenarios, as smectites have long been invoked as catalysts for biosynthesis
427 (Schoonen et al. 2004; Meunier et al. 2010), as templates for biomolecular assembly (Ferris and
428 Ertem 1992; Ertem and Ferris 1997; Hanczyc et al. 2003; Chen et al. 2004; Deamer 2011), and
429 even as possible self-replicating proto-life (Cairns-Smith 1968, 2005; Cairns-Smith and Hartman
430 1986).

431

432 *Impact processes:* An as yet little studied mechanism of clay mineral formation—one that
433 played a significant mineralogical role only in the Hadean Eon—is hydrothermal activity
434 associated with marginal zones of large impacts (Pirajno 2009; Hazen 2013). An estimated
435 20,000 meteor impacts of objects > 1 km diameter, with many impactors >10 km, altered Earth's
436 near-surface mineralogy during the Hadean Eon (Glickson 1998). Each impact initially melted or
437 vaporized surface phases within a radius significantly greater than that of the impactor, but such
438 events also diversified Earth's mineralogy in three ways—the production of shock minerals, the
439 excavation of high-pressure and temperature lithologies, and the generation of fracture zones
440 with deep circumferential hydrothermal systems possibly lasting for > 10⁵ years along crater
441 margins (Abramov and Kring 2005; Versh et al. 2006; Pirajno 2009; Hazen 2013). A significant
442 effect of impact hydrothermal alteration was thus production of clay minerals (Allen et al. 1982;
443 Pirajno 2005).

444

445 ***Stage 4—Granitization (timing uncertain; >3.5 Ga):*** The fourth stage of Earth's mineral
446 evolution was characterized by extensive partial melting of basalt, the consequent production of
447 extensive intrusive granitoid suites, and ultimately the formation of granitic protocontinents.

448 While the exact timing of granite formation remains uncertain, we suggest that granite
449 production by partial melting of basalt (stage 4) likely precedes plate tectonics (stage 5) on any
450 terrestrial planet, and that granite formation is likely to occur on some planets that are too small
451 too initiate plate tectonics. All of the aqueous alteration processes of mafic lithologies observed
452 in stage 3 would have continued to operate throughout stage 4. Production of trioctahedral
453 ferromagnesian clay minerals, for example via serpentinization and seawater-basalt interactions,
454 would continue throughout Earth history as major clay-forming mechanisms (albeit at a
455 gradually decreasing rate, depending on exposure of basaltic crust to fluids and heat flow).
456 However, as many as four modes of clay mineral paragenesis must have occurred significantly
457 for the first time as a result of the emergence of granitic protocontinents: Al-silicate alteration,
458 anoxic surface weathering, clay authigenesis, and formation of rare complex pegmatite clay
459 minerals.

460

461 *Al-silicate alteration:* First, and most significantly for stage 4 clay paragenesis, aqueous and
462 hydrothermal processes altered extensive deposits of feldspars, feldspathoids, micas, and other
463 Al-bearing minerals. Note that many of the common Al-bearing clay minerals probably occurred
464 to a limited extent in stage 3 (Tables 1 and 2), but alteration of granite must have led to the first
465 volumetrically significant production of a number of dioctahedral aluminous clay minerals,
466 including kaolinite and its polymorphs (dickite, nacrite, and halloysite), aluminous smectites,
467 vermiculite, and possibly pyrophyllite.

468 Numerous studies describe the aqueous and hydrothermal alteration of common rock-forming
469 micas, most notably dioctahedral muscovite $[KAl_2(Si_3Al)O_{10}(OH)_2]$ and the trioctahedral biotite
470 group $[K(Mg,Fe^{2+})_3(Al,Fe^{3+})Si_3O_{10}(F,OH)_2]$. Stoch and Sikora (1976), for example, described

471 the alteration of biotite, muscovite, and secondary illite directly to kaolinite—a process reflected
472 in the common occurrence of muscovite books containing interlayers of kaolinite. Indeed, many
473 large deposits of kaolinite throughout the world contain remnant muscovite that served as the
474 source for much of the kaolinite (e.g., the Georgia kaolin deposits: Jonas 1964). Where alteration
475 was more gradual, micas may display the following characteristic reaction pathway (Weaver
476 1989):

477 muscovite → muscovite/smectite or muscovite/vermiculite → smectite → kaolinite

478 In related studies, Meunier and Velde (1979) and Velde and Weir (1979) observed that altered
479 granite hosts illite along grain boundaries between muscovite and alkali feldspar, and micas and
480 K-feldspar (KAlSi_3O_8) also alter to vermiculite and beidellite. Kaolinite and Fe oxides can occur
481 in fractured granites that experience relatively high water flow and, with time, granite may alter
482 almost entirely to kaolinite and oxides, but it may also transform into other phases such as
483 halloysite and gibbsite, depending on environmental conditions (Weaver 1989).

484 These studies thus indicate that a complex interplay of chemical and physical factors,
485 including temperature, aqueous fluid composition (including activity ratios of cations to H^+),
486 water/rock ratio, and fluid flow rates, is required to explain the varied modes of clay mineral
487 paragenesis from alteration of Al silicate minerals. Temperature, in particular, plays an important
488 role in the hydrothermal alteration of granite. Velde (1985) recognized four types of
489 hydrothermal alteration of granite: potassic, phyllic, argillic, and propylitic, each of which results
490 in different clay-bearing mineral assemblages that reflect different formation temperatures
491 (Lowell and Guilbert 1970; McDowell and Elders 1980). Potassic alteration produces new K-
492 feldspar and Mg-Al-bioite (i.e., with Mg and Al greater than in typical magmatic biotite: Moore
493 and Czamanske 1973; Beane 1974; Jacobs and Parry 1976). Phyllic alteration produces sericite,

548 *Clay authigenesis*: A third mechanism of clay mineral formation that likely arose in stage 4 is
549 authigenesis of dioctahedral clays. The erosion of granitic continents led to the first significant
550 marine Al-rich sedimentary deposits, where detrital clay minerals from the subaerial crust would
551 have augmented authigenic clay mineral formation. Illite, illite/smectite, berthierine, Al-bearing
552 chlorite, and dickite are all possible authigenic clays from stage 4. In addition, we suggest that
553 the rare aluminous phyllosilicate clay mineral donbassite $[\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_3\text{Al})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{Al}_{2.33}(\text{OH})_6]$,
554 which forms by authigenesis in Al-rich sediments, may have appeared for the first time in stage
555 4.

556
557 *Complex pegmatite clay minerals*: Yet another consequence of granitization, albeit a gradual
558 one that may have taken a billion years of fluid-rock interaction, was the formation of complex
559 pegmatites and their associated suites of the minerals of Li, Be, B, and other incompatible
560 elements (London 2008; Grew and Hazen 2009, 2010a, 2013; Bradley 2011; Tkachev 2011).
561 Complex pegmatites are known to host five unusual clay minerals that arise from hydrothermal
562 alteration of primary pegmatite minerals, all of which probably appeared for the first time in
563 stage 4 (Tables 1 and 2). For example, swinefordite
564 $[\text{Ca}_{0.2}(\text{Li},\text{Al},\text{Mg},\text{Fe})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH},\text{F})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ is a dioctahedral Li-rich smectite that forms by
565 alteration of the lithium clinopyroxene spodumene ($\text{LiAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$). Similarly, the serpentine-group
566 mineral manandonite $[\text{Li}_2\text{Al}_4(\text{Si}_2\text{AlB})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8]$, and the chlorite-group minerals cookeite
567 $[(\text{Al},\text{Li})_3\text{Al}_2(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8]$ and borocookeite $[\text{LiAl}_4(\text{Si}_3\text{B})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8]$, are rare clay minerals
568 that form from alteration of tourmaline-group minerals and/or Li-bearing mica (“lepidolite”). In
569 addition, yofortierite $[\text{Mn}^{2+}_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 8\text{-}9\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ is found exclusively in sodalite-nepheline
570 syentite pegmatites enriched in Mn. Other clay minerals formed from weathering of complex

571 pegmatites, although not new species, may display unusual minor-element compositions. The
572 rare Cs-bearing muscovite “nampingite”, for example, weathers to a Cs-bearing illite or smectite.
573 Such Cs-rich clay minerals are very rare in nature but are easily produced by cation-exchange
574 experiments in the laboratory.

575

576 ***Stage 5—Plate Tectonics (timing uncertain; >3.0 Ga):*** Stage 5 marked the beginning of plate
577 tectonics on Earth—a time that initiated sediment recycling into the mantle at subduction zones
578 (e.g., Koster van Groos 1988) and significantly increased the scale of fluid-rock interactions in
579 the overlying upper mantle and crust. Unfortunately, the minimal rock record prior to 3.5 Ga
580 obscures the chronology of early subduction, orogenic processes, the formation of the cratons,
581 and the assembly of the first continents. The transition from plume-dominated to modern-style
582 plate tectonics for the first time resulted in the orderly accretion of granitic terrains into
583 continents. However, major unresolved questions relate to the timing and rate of continent
584 formation. Estimates range from essentially modern continental coverage by the end of the
585 Hadean Eon at ~4 Ga, to continued continental growth into the late Archean Eon at < 3 Ga
586 (Condie 1989; Rogers and Santosh 2004; Harrison et al. 2005; Smithies et al. 2005a, b; Stern
587 2005; Witze 2006; Dewey 2007; Groves and Bierlein 2007; Rollinson 2007; Condie and Pease
588 2008; Van Kranendonk 2011; Cawood et al. 2013; Nance et al. 2013). Similar uncertainties
589 apply to the nature and extent of soils in the Archean Eon. While most land surface prior to the
590 evolution of the terrestrial biosphere was subject to denudation by rainfall and runoff, at what
591 point in Earth history would significant mud deposits have accumulated in terrestrial
592 depressions?

593 All of the previously mentioned modes of clay mineral paragenesis operated throughout the

594 initiation of plate tectonics. Aqueous and hydrothermal alteration of a wide range of ultramafic
595 to acidic lithologies produced abundant trioctahedral (Mg-Fe²⁺) and dioctahedral (Al) clays in
596 the shallow oceanic and continental crust. Growing marine sediment deposits were the loci of
597 authigenic clay formation, whereas anoxic protocontinent weathering may have produced clay-
598 rich terrestrial sedimentary deposits in lakes and valleys.

599 Plate tectonics also resulted in orogenic processes associated with convergent margins, which
600 exposed significant expanses of deep metamorphic lithologies for the first time. Greenschist
601 facies metamorphic rocks rich in clinocllore, chamosite, and other chlorite-group minerals thus
602 were added to the near-surface environment. In particular, metamorphic Mn- and Ni-chlorites,
603 pennantite [(Mn²⁺,Al)₆(Si,Al)₄O₁₀(OH)₈] and nimite [(Ni,Mg,Al)₆(Si,Al)₄O₁₀(OH)₈], appeared
604 during stage 5 as a result of the metamorphism and subsequent uplift of Mn and Ni deposits.
605 Thus, whatever the timing, tectonic activity and its associated alteration of near-surface
606 mineralogy, metamorphism, and an increased volume of the crust affected by hydrothermal
607 activity could have increased the number of mineral phases to ~1500, including 37 of the 56
608 phyllosilicate clay mineral species listed in Tables 1 and 2, prior to the biological innovations of
609 stage 6.

610

611 ***Stage 6—The Anoxic Microbial World (3.9-2.4 Ga):*** Biological processes began to affect
612 Earth's surface mineralogy by the Eoarchean (~3.9 to 3.6 Ga), when large-scale surface mineral
613 deposits were precipitated under the influences of changing atmospheric and ocean chemistry
614 (e.g., Hazen et al. 2008, 2009). There is no evidence for a significant terrestrial biota at this time,
615 nor were marine microbial populations sufficiently diverse or widespread to have had a major
616 impact on clay mineral formation.

617 It is likely that all modes of clay mineral paragenesis observed in stages 2 through 5 (i.e.,
618 aqueous and hydrothermal alteration, authigenic formation in sediments, anoxic surface
619 weathering, and low- to moderate-grade metamorphic formations exposed by tectonic processes)
620 were active throughout stage 6. One possible mineralogical novelty associated with early life
621 may have been the local production of clay minerals with increased $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$, perhaps in zones
622 associated with biologically mediated ferrihydrite [$\text{Fe}_{4-5}^{3+}(\text{OH},\text{O})_{12}$] and banded iron formations
623 (Konhauser et al. 2005; Kendall et al. 2012). Thus, greenalite and minnesotaite
624 [$(\text{Fe}^{2+})_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$] may have occurred for the first time. However, it is also likely that anoxic
625 zones hosted populations of iron-reducing microbes, which are known to alter dioctahedral
626 smectite, illite, and chlorite (Dong et al. 2009).

627 In addition, clay minerals that form through alteration of carbonate-rich zones, including
628 skarn minerals, may also have increased significantly as a consequence of biologically
629 precipitated carbonate platforms. Thus, stage 6 may have seen enhanced production of antigorite
630 and kellyite [$(\text{Mn}^{2+},\text{Mg},\text{Al})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$] (Table 2).

631

632 **Stage 7—The Great Oxidation Event (2.4-2.2 Ga):** The Paleoproterozoic “Great Oxidation
633 Event” (GOE), when atmospheric oxygen may have risen to >1% of modern levels, initiated a
634 remarkable, if prolonged, diversification of Earth’s near-surface mineralogy as a consequence of
635 oxidative weathering. Hazen et al. (2008, 2009) estimated that more than 2500 new minerals
636 appeared for the first time after the stabilization of high oxidation states of Fe, Ni, Mn, Cu, Hg,
637 Mo, U, and other redox-sensitive elements. Biochemical processes may thus be responsible,
638 directly or indirectly, for the majority of Earth’s > 4,700 known mineral species.

639 Stage 7 of Earth’s mineral evolution likely saw the first appearance, or at least the first

640 volumetrically significant formation, of at least 13 phyllosilicate clay minerals (Tables 1 and 2).
641 Most of these new phases are ferric iron clay minerals, such as the halloysite isomorph
642 hisingerite, which forms by oxidative weathering of Fe silicates (including Fe-smectites) or
643 sulfides (Kohyama and Sudo 1975); the serpentine group-minerals cronstedtite
644 $[(\text{Fe}^{2+}_2\text{Fe}^{3+})_3(\text{Si},\text{Fe}^{3+})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$ and odinite $[(\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Mg},\text{Al},\text{Fe}^{2+})_{2.5}(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$; the
645 sepiolite/palygorskite-group mineral taperssuatsiaite $[\text{NaFe}^{3+}_3\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}]$; the smectite-
646 group mineral nontronite; the Fe^{3+} isomorph of pyrophyllite, ferripyrophyllite, which forms both
647 by hydrothermal alteration in oxic environments and by precipitation from hot and highly saline
648 solutions (Badaut et al. 1992); and glauconite. Glauconite forms in marine sediments, commonly
649 on continental shelves in proximity to organic matter, which provides a reductive local
650 environment. Glauconite formation is often microbially mediated and is controlled by diffusion
651 of K from seawater and Fe^{2+} from iron minerals (Odin 1988; Meunier and El Albani 2007).
652 Glauconite may also form from biotite by marine diagenesis in shallow water under reducing
653 conditions.

654 A number of clay minerals are known only from the oxidized weathering zones of ore bodies
655 and thus also likely postdate the Great Oxidation Event. Examples include the serpentine-group
656 minerals brindleyite $[(\text{Ni},\text{Al})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$ and fraipontite $[(\text{Zn},\text{Al})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$; the
657 smectite-group minerals sauconite $[\text{Na}_{0.3}\text{Zn}_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}]$, zincsilite
658 $[\text{Zn}_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}]$, and yakhontovite $[(\text{Ca},\text{Na},\text{K})_{0.2}(\text{Cu},\text{Fe},\text{Mg})_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}]$;
659 and the chlorite-group minerals gonyerite $[\text{Mn}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}(\text{Si}_3\text{Fe}^{3+})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8]$ and baileychlore
660 $[(\text{Zn},\text{Fe}^{2+},\text{Al},\text{Mg})_6(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8]$.

661 The GOE also must have resulted in expanded compositional ranges of numerous other clay
662 minerals as Fe^{3+} increasingly occupied both octahedral and tetrahedral sites, with a

663 corresponding shift to additional dioctahedral clay mineral phases. For example, ferric iron-rich
664 varieties of vermiculite would have arisen during the oxidative weathering of stage 7 (Velde
665 1985). Although the GOE would not have immediately triggered dramatic increases in the
666 production of Fe^{3+} minerals in anoxic deep ocean environments, it would have begun a
667 significant modification in the aqueous chemistry of Fe, because iron became less soluble as
668 waters became oxygenated: marine Fe^{2+} would have gradually been depleted by precipitation of
669 Fe-oxyhydroxides (Anbar and Knoll 2002; Klein 2005).

670

671 ***Stage 8—The Intermediate Ocean (2.0-1.0 Ga):*** The billion years following the Great Oxidation
672 Event encompass one of the most enigmatic stages of Earth's mineral evolution. We suggest that
673 few new species of clays arose, as no significant changes in environmental conditions occurred.
674 All pre-existing modes of clay mineral paragenesis continued, and ongoing sedimentation and
675 recycling via plate tectonics gave rise to increasing volumes of phyllosilicate-bearing rocks. It is
676 worth noting that many clay minerals were being recycled by this point in Earth history, through
677 subduction, regional metamorphism, charnockitization (e.g., Janardhanan et al. 1979; Newton et
678 al. 1980), and other processes. Thus, clay minerals were both added and removed from the near-
679 surface environment (i.e., Koster van Groos 1988).

680 A caveat to the model of the intermediate ocean as a time of stasis relates to the assembly of
681 the Columbian and Rodinian supercontinents at ~2.0-1.8 and ~1.2-1.0 Ga, respectively. A
682 number of studies have demonstrated pulses of mineralization and associated mineral
683 diversification during those intervals (Meyer 1981; Grew and Hazen 2009, 2010a, 2013; Condie
684 and Aster 2010; Bradley 2011; Condie et al. 2011; Tkachev 2011; Hazen et al. 2012; Golden et
685 al. 2013). If hydrothermal activity associated with collisional orogenies led to mineralization,

686 then clay mineral formation must have been enhanced during those intervals as well.
687 Furthermore, rifting of Columbia at ~1.6-1.2 Ga (e.g., Nance et al. 2013) was accompanied by
688 deposition of thick marginal sediment wedges, which also provided loci for clay formation and
689 accumulation.

690

691 ***Stage 9—The Snowball Earth (1.0-0.542 Ga):*** Dramatic changes in the production of clays and
692 many other minerals occurred during the Neoproterozoic Era, which saw extreme fluctuations in
693 the near-surface environment, coupled with significant biological innovations. These changes
694 include alternating snowball and hothouse climate episodes, increases in atmospheric oxygen,
695 the breakup of the Rodinian supercontinent, and the rise of multicellular animals.

696 At least two major glaciation events between 750 and 650 Ma interrupted the terrestrial
697 weathering cycle, as near-surface reaction rates slowed greatly due to decreased temperatures,
698 limited availability of liquid water, and the effects of an extensive ice veneer that may have
699 extended from poles to the Equator. We suggest that only subsurface aqueous/hydrothermal
700 alteration and highly localized oxic weathering of volcanic edifices produced significant clay
701 minerals during snowball Earth episodes, although authigenic clay mineral formation would have
702 continued in the oceans. Minor production of clay minerals may also have occurred via low-
703 temperature alteration of rock flour beneath abundant glaciers.

704 Clay mineral formation must have been correspondingly elevated during intervals between
705 snowball Earth episodes, characterized by relatively brief (~ 10 Ma) “hothouse” periods of rapid
706 warming triggered by elevated CO₂ concentrations and greenhouse gas warming, reinforced by
707 positive albedo feedbacks as ice caps retreated. Increased surface weathering and nutrient-rich
708 runoff, coupled with high atmospheric CO₂, led to extensive algal blooms and significant

709 increases in atmospheric O₂, as well.

710 Perhaps the most significant impact of oxygenation is that it ultimately gave rise to today's
711 range of biochemical mechanisms. Microbial activity enhances clay mineral production, for
712 example by the bio-weathering of feldspar and mica (Schwartzman and Volk 1989; Paris et al.
713 1995; Bennett et al. 1996; Barker et al. 1998; Ueshima and Tazaki 1998, 2001; Ueshima et al.
714 2000; Tazaki 2005), as well as via microbially mediated oxidation and reduction reactions
715 (Shelobolina et al. 2003; Kim et al. 2004; Fisk et al. 2006; Stucki and Kostka 2006; Dong et al.
716 2009; Bishop et al. 2011; Dong 2012). A terrestrial photosynthetic biota may have arisen as early
717 as ~ 850 Ma (Knauth and Kennedy 2009; Hand 2009), and a significant Neoproterozoic increase
718 in clay mineral deposition may have been the result of microbial activity in soils. These
719 processes possibly led to the so-called "clay mineral factory" (Kennedy et al. 2006).
720 Alternatively, Tosca et al. (2010) suggest that the Neoproterozoic Era saw a relative shift in
721 chemical versus physical weathering, with no significant increase in total clay mineral
722 production.

723 An indirect consequence of increased microbial activity was enhanced marine sequestration of
724 organic carbon within clay floccules and onto clay mineral surfaces (Hedges and Keil 1995;
725 Mayer et al. 2004). Clay mineral surfaces actively adsorb a number of organic compounds,
726 particularly polar organic molecules, and clay minerals can participate in reactions that modify
727 the organic molecules (Ransom et al. 1997, 1998, 1999; Blair and Aller 2012). In addition, it has
728 often been inferred that clay minerals can play a role in protecting organic molecules from
729 subsequent oxidation and other reactions, thereby effectively preserving the organic molecules
730 (Gordon and Millero 1985; Baldock and Skjemstad 2000; Lalonde et al. 2012). Subsequent
731 burial of this organic carbon with clay minerals, which was possibly the first major global-scale

732 carbon sequestration process, contributed to a rise in atmospheric oxygen by decreasing the
733 opportunity for organic carbon to oxidize.

734

735 ***Stage 10—Phanerozoic Biomineralization (0.542 Ga to present):*** The Neoproterozoic rise in
736 atmospheric oxygen, with the consequent formation of the UV-blocking ozone layer, ultimately
737 facilitated the evolution of multicellular life and led to skeletal biomineralization—events that
738 irreversibly transformed Earth’s near-surface mineralogy. Skeletal biomineralization of
739 carbonates had the indirect effect of sequestering large amounts of carbon in Earth’s crust,
740 further modifying the composition of the atmosphere, and changing the pH of the oceans. The
741 rise in oxygen also altered Earth’s surficial aqueous geochemistry, changing near-surface redox
742 chemistry (most importantly for Fe in the context of clay minerals) as well as minor and trace
743 element speciation.

744

745 *Soil formation:* Grim (1968), Velde (1985), Newman (1987), and Weaver (1989) provide
746 overviews of rock weathering, soil formation, and phyllosilicate clay mineralogy resulting from
747 near-surface rock alteration. Weathered rocks are not altered homogeneously; rather they
748 develop rock alteration horizons, grading from the deepest unaltered rock, through saprock,
749 saprolite, laterite, and the topmost soil layer. Resulting clay mineral assemblages can therefore
750 be classified into chemical systems based on their alteration processes and conditions. For
751 example, alkali, alkaline earth, and Fe²⁺ minerals tend to decrease upwards, whereas Al, Fe³⁺,
752 and hydrated species increase toward the soil horizon (Velde 1985; Newman 1987; Weaver
753 1989). These details, particularly with respect to redox-sensitive elements such as Fe, would

754 differ significantly on Earth before the Great Oxidation Event or before biological activity was
755 important on the surface.

756 Details of weathering profiles also differ significantly depending on the primary lithology.
757 The two most important factors controlling the weathering of komatiites and other ultramafic
758 rocks are the loss of Mg from the rocks and oxidation of Fe. Prior to about 2.4 Ga (the start of
759 the Great Oxidation Event), ultramafic rocks probably did not experience significant oxidation
760 (Sverjensky and Lee 2010). However, after 2.4 Ga, oxidation became much more important to
761 the evolution of Earth's clay minerals, primarily by oxidation of Fe^{2+} to Fe^{3+} (a process that was
762 accelerated by microbially mediated redox reactions; e.g., Cheah et al. 2003; Shelobolina et al.
763 2003; Bishop et al. 2011).

764 Loss of Mg in ultrabasic rocks does not contribute substantially to soil clay minerals because
765 Mg-saponite, chlorite, sepiolite, or palygorskite are unstable during weathering (Velde 1985). In
766 this regard the role of Mg in solution is of special interest. Harder (1972) investigated smectite
767 paragenesis at surface conditions and concluded that the presence of Mg in solution favors the
768 formation of smectite minerals. He found that montmorillonite and talc can be synthesized from
769 Mg-hydroxide silica gel, but Mg-Al-hydroxide silica gel precipitated both di- and trioctahedral
770 smectites. Low silica was observed to be favorable for formation of montmorillonite, a
771 significant result given the predominantly ultramafic to mafic crustal composition of early Earth,
772 and a result at odds with recent research supporting the formation of smectites under high silica
773 activity conditions (Bish and Aronson 1993; Abercrombie et al. 1994).

774 Olivine weathering would have provided the needed chemical reactants for such reactions, so
775 saponite is likely to have been a significant clay mineral from the earliest stages of Earth history.
776 Indeed, Mg-rich clay minerals such as saponite appear to be a common alteration product of the

777 ancient basaltic crust of Mars (e.g., Poulet et al. 2005; Bibring et al. 2006; Mustard et al. 2008;
778 Ehlmann et al. 2009, 2010; Milliken et al. 2009; Carter et al. 2010; Milliken and Bish 2010).

779 Oxidative weathering of mafic lithologies yields a distinctive sequence of clay minerals. For
780 example, Ildefonse (1980) described weathering of a metagabbro with a saprock zone of Fe
781 beidellite, nontronite, and talc, as well as Fe oxides overlying a saprolite zone containing coarse-
782 grained vermiculite. This sequence reflects a loss of Ca and Mg coupled with Fe oxidation. Note
783 that iron oxidation facilitates the transition from tri- to dioctahedral clay minerals $[(\text{Fe}^{2+})_3 \rightarrow$
784 $(\text{Fe}^{3+})_2]$; i.e., serpentine, chlorite, and/or saponite transform to nontronite as follows (Ducloux et
785 al. 1976): chlorite + trioctahedral smectite \rightarrow dioctahedral smectite + interstratified minerals.

786 Alteration of ultramafic rocks under humid conditions commonly results in formation of
787 laterites that contain a variety of phyllosilicates, including vermiculite, chlorite, kerolite, and
788 smectites (including Ni-bearing varieties). Vermiculite (di- or trioctahedral) is commonly
789 produced during basic rock weathering (Jackson et al. 1952; Bassett 1959; Rich and Cook 1963;
790 Johnson 1964; Tardy and Gac 1968; Proust 1982; Velde 1985). Vermiculite paragenesis often
791 reflects a coupled loss of K, Ca, and Mg, together with oxidation of Fe. Crystallization occurs in
792 response to the incorporation of more Al and Fe^{3+} in the octahedral sites from the leaching of Mg
793 and oxidation of Fe^{2+} (Velde 1985).

794 Weathering of granite and other felsic rocks contrasts with the alteration of more mafic
795 lithologies. Kaolinite is present with oxides in the fracture systems of granites but has a minor
796 effect on the mass balance of the system (Meunier 1980; Newman 1987). Gibbsite is common in
797 the lowest parts of granitic alteration profiles and the rock may also be kaolinized (Helgeson
798 1970; Calvert et al. 1980; Macias-Vazquez 1981; Newman 1987). Feldspar weathering in acidic
799 lithologies is influenced by a number of factors. Composition strongly affects feldspar

800 dissolution rates, and Na and Ca removal rates are greater than for K. Thus, plagioclase weathers
801 more rapidly than K-feldspar and mica (Johnson et al. 1968; Nesbitt et al. 1980; Nesbitt and
802 Young 1984; Weaver 1989).

803

804 *The role of root systems:* Fungi and plants, which established a terrestrial foothold ~ 430 Ma,
805 dramatically changed the rate of terrestrial mineral alteration to clays. Plant root systems change
806 soil chemistry by producing organic acids that accelerate clay mineral formation (Weed et al.
807 1969; Silverman and Munoz 1970; Huang and Keller 1970, 1972; Kodama et al. 1983). For
808 example, fulvic acid has been used to facilitate synthesis of kaolinite at low temperatures (Siffert
809 1978). It is likely, therefore, that organic acids began to play an important role in many low-
810 temperature, near-surface mineral dissolution reactions soon after the development of surface
811 vegetation.

812 Plant roots also facilitate removal of potassium from biotite (Spyridakis et al. 1967; Cecconi
813 et al. 1975; Weaver 1989); thus micas serve as a biological source of potassium as they alter to
814 vermiculite (Bassett 1959) and eventually to kaolinite. A major effect of plants on clay mineral
815 chemistry was the differential removal of cations other than Si, thereby gradually transforming
816 soil horizons to more silicious minerals, including smectites, illites, and kaolinite, compared with
817 oxide-hydroxides such as gibbsite (B. Velde, personal communication). Plants also dramatically
818 increased the volume of terrestrial clay minerals: Throughout the Paleozoic Era, plants
819 established progressively deeper soil profiles, which provided the foundation for progressively
820 taller plants. Thus, terrestrial clay mineral formation exemplifies the co-evolution of the geo- and
821 biospheres.

822 Few of the 56 IMA recognized phyllosilicate clay mineral species appeared in the
823 Phanerozoic Eon for the first time. The serpentine-group mineral odinite
824 $[(\text{Fe}^{3+}, \text{Mg}, \text{Al}, \text{Fe}^{2+})_{2.5}(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4]$ is known today only as an authigenic species in tropical
825 reefs. The sepiolite-group mineral loughlinite $[\text{Na}_2\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{16} \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}]$, a product of dolomite
826 alteration, and the soil mineral palygorskite are found exclusively in Phanerozoic formations and
827 may thus also be restricted to stage 10. Similarly, if laterite formation is a unique characteristic
828 of the terrestrial biosphere then the rare species orthochamosite $[\text{Fe}^{2+}_5\text{Al}(\text{Si}, \text{Al})\text{O}_{10}(\text{O}, \text{OH})_8]$ and
829 falcondoite $[\text{Ni}_4\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{15}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ are also found only in stage 10. Given the varied clay-
830 forming environments of the Phanerozoic Eon, we speculate that all 56 clay species cited in
831 Table 2 have formed during the past 500 million years (and likely still are forming).

832

833 **PHANEROZOIC CLAY MINERALS AND ATMOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY**

834 Studies of clay mineral evolution are hindered by early Earth's meager clay mineral record—
835 the consequence of burial, alteration, subduction, and erosion. Accordingly, much of the
836 preceding analysis has relied on speculation based on studies of clay mineral stabilities and
837 mechanisms of contemporary clay mineral paragenesis. However, detailed compilations of the
838 temporal distribution of clay minerals over the past 1.3 Ga, and especially the last 600 Ma, by
839 Ronov and coworkers provide an unparalleled record of relative clay abundances during the late
840 Proterozoic and Phanerozoic Eons and thus offer the possibility of a more quantitative statistical
841 approach to clay mineral evolution. Especially useful in this regard is the geographically
842 extensive and sample intensive compilation of Ronov et al. (1990) for select clay-group mineral
843 abundances from ~10,000 dated shale samples to 1,300 Ma from the Russian platform. Ronov
844 and colleagues analyzed the modal abundances of four predominant groups of clay minerals, as
845 distinguished by their characteristic (001) X-ray diffraction peaks—kaolin group (7 Å), illite
846 group (10 Å), “montmorillonite” (i.e., smectite group; expandable ≥ 10 Å), and chlorite group (14
847 Å)—for each shale sample.

848 Starting with the assumption that terrestrial clay mineral abundances may reflect both
849 diagenetic processes and variations in atmospheric composition, we examined correlations
850 between pairs of clay mineral abundances versus time, as well as for clay abundances versus
851 recent quantitative models of global O₂ and CO₂ levels in Earth's atmosphere extending back
852 543 Ma through the Phanerozoic Eon (Berner 2004, 2006a, 2009; Arvidson et al. 2007).

853 We find two significant pair correlations between the relative abundances of clay mineral
854 groups. As expected, the most significant correlation is found for sediment concentrations of the
855 two most abundant clay mineral groups, illite and smectite (“montmorillonite” of Ronov et al.).

856 Illite-group clay minerals dominate in sediments of the early Phanerozoic Era but tend to be less
857 abundant in more recent formations. Smectite-group minerals, on the other hand, are more
858 abundant in younger sediments (Fig. 1). We employed the Pearson product-moment correlation
859 coefficient (PMCC; see Supplementary Text) to quantify the negative correlation of illite with
860 smectite (PMCC = -0.74)—a significant overall trend that is consistent with the well-known
861 alteration sequence from smectite to illite during burial diagenesis (Hower et al. 1976; Weaver
862 1989).

863 We also observe a significant negative correlation (PMCC = -0.55) between kaolinite and
864 chlorite, which are the least abundant of the four clay mineral groups reported in these samples
865 (Fig. 2). This result suggests that a significant amount of kaolinite might be derived from
866 weathering of chlorite, probably during the weathering of mafic volcanic rocks—a major process
867 in the GEOCARBSULF model (Berner 2006b; see below).

868 In addition to the diagenetic smectite-illite and chlorite-kaolinite transitions, we find four
869 significant correlations between clay mineral abundances and atmospheric chemistry—
870 correlations that may reflect net effects of geological processes such as weathering,
871 sedimentation, metamorphism, and hydrothermal alteration, as well as biological processes such
872 as photosynthesis, bacterial sulfate reduction, and Fe^{2+} oxidation. Variations in the relative
873 abundances of the clay mineral groups kaolinite, illite, smectite, and chlorite in shales on a
874 regional spatial scale have been correlated with changes in climate, particularly humidity, during
875 parts of the Paleozoic Era (Ronov et al. 1990; Hallam et al. 1991; Hesselbo et al. 2009), and it
876 has been hypothesized that Neoproterozoic clay mineral production increased globally in
877 association with a rise in O_2 level (Kennedy et al. 2006; but see also Tosca et al. 2010).

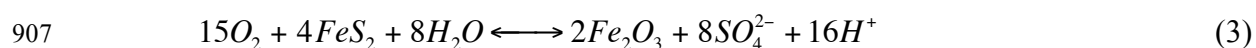
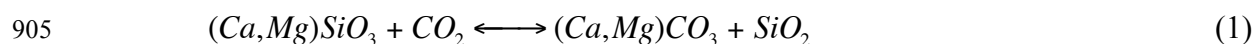
878 However, correlations between atmospheric composition and relative clay mineral group
879 abundances have not been reported.

880 The procedure used in Ronov et al. (1990) provides a platform-wide average over different
881 clay mineral depositional environments and assumes a uniform and similar diagenetic history for
882 all samples—an assumption that is at best an approximation. We suggest that by correlating
883 relative abundances of different clay mineral groups with atmospheric CO₂ and O₂, we test the
884 extent to which variations in relative proportions of clay mineral groups reflect their genesis in a
885 weathering environment, as opposed to diagenetic and other factors. For example, illite
886 commonly forms by diagenetic alteration of K-feldspars, as well as by the progressive
887 transformation of smectite evident in Figure 1. We assumed that each sample is representative of
888 a global environmental condition for a specific geologic age (Gradstein et al. 2004). We plotted
889 relative abundances of the four clay mineral groups (Supplementary Tables S1 and S2) as time
890 series with the model-calculated O₂ or CO₂ levels from GEOCARBSULF (Berner 2006a, 2009;
891 Figs. 3-6; Supplementary Table S3), which employs a chronology consistent with Gradstein et al.
892 (2004). Similar correlations were obtained using the CO₂ model values from the Magic model
893 (Arvidson et al. 2007), but O₂ values for the entire Phanerozoic Eon were not reported by these
894 authors and may differ from those in GEOCARBSULF.

895 A matrix of eight possible correlations between the four different clay mineral groups and O₂
896 and CO₂ levels is given in Supplementary Table S4. We find four significant correlations (i.e.,
897 $PMMC < -0.5$ or $PMMC > 0.5$) between the Ronov et al. (1990) clay abundance data and the
898 Berner (2009) atmospheric composition model for CO₂ and O₂, as described below.

899

900 *Kaolinite and chlorite versus O₂*: Figure 3 illustrates a negative correlation between the
901 relative abundance of kaolinite and O₂ levels over the entire Phanerozoic Eon (PMCC = -0.50),
902 in contrast to the lack of significant correlation with CO₂ levels (PMCC = -0.14). The O₂ and
903 CO₂ levels in the GEOCARBSULF model (Berner 2006a) are controlled by the following
904 overall reactions:



908 Equation 1 exerts primary control on CO₂ levels, whereas O₂ levels are controlled primarily
909 by Equation 2 and are also influenced by Equation 3. Low levels of O₂ in Figure 3 correspond to
910 net model shifts of Equation 2 to the left and Equation 3 to the right; both shifts are associated
911 with higher levels of acidity. If we assume that kaolinite is detrital and originally derived by
912 weathering of silicates, then higher acidity during weathering corresponds to lower values of the
913 ratios of aqueous cations to H⁺, e.g., $\frac{a_{Mg^{2+}}}{(a_{H^+})^2}$ or $\frac{a_{Ca^{2+}}}{(a_{H^+})^2}$, which favor the kaolinite stability field
914 relative to Ca- and/or Mg-bearing silicates on aqueous activity diagrams (Drever 1988). Low O₂
915 levels thus correspond to greater amounts of kaolinite relative to primary silicates or other clay
916 minerals. It should also be emphasized that it is the weathering of Ca- and/or Mg-bearing
917 silicates that is of the greatest global importance for the coupled O₂ and CO₂ cycles, because it is
918 Ca and Mg that form carbonates in the oceans (Berner 2006a).

919 Relative abundances of chlorite through time (Fig. 4) correlate positively with O₂ levels over
920 the Phanerozoic Eon as a whole (PMCC = +0.51), whereas no correlation occurs with CO₂ levels
921 (PMCC = -0.04). These results suggest that chlorite could have formed by direct oxidative

922 weathering of other mafic silicates at values of $\frac{a_{Mg^{2+}}}{(a_{H^+})^2}$ unfavorable for kaolinite. However, some
923 of the observed chlorite-group minerals could represent detrital phases, whose relative
924 abundance is a monitor of what could be termed chemically assisted physical weathering,
925 particularly of mafic and ultramafic rocks that contain chlorite from prior hydrothermal alteration
926 processes. It is likely that physical weathering of such rocks rich in Mg^{2+} and Fe^{2+} (and also
927 containing Fe^{3+}) was assisted by high levels of O_2 , which would oxidize any rapidly weathering
928 Fe^{2+} -bearing minerals (e.g., olivine) to iron oxides and facilitate mechanical breakup of the
929 rocks, resulting in a greater relative abundance of residual, ultimately detrital, chlorite.

930 Figure 4 suggests that the above modes of weathering were important from 550 Ma until
931 about 200 Ma ago, after which the correlation between chlorite and O_2 appears weak.
932 Interestingly, ~200 Ma ago corresponds to the rise of ectomycorrhizal fungi (EMF; Taylor et al.
933 2009). EMF are distinguished from the earlier arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) by their
934 ability to secrete oxalate and siderophores, which in combination have been shown in laboratory
935 experiments to be particularly effective in solubilizing Fe-oxide (Cheah et al. 2003). EMF can
936 facilitate solubilization of Fe-bearing minerals (Courty et al. 2010) and mechanical-chemical
937 weathering of sheet silicates (Bonneville et al. 2009), which, in turn, could facilitate the
938 incorporation of Fe^{2+}/Fe^{3+} into weathering products such as smectites. Thus the rise of EMF at
939 about 200 Ma would have resulted in a complex style of combined physical, chemical, and
940 biological weathering similar to that at the present day. We suggest that this new weathering
941 behavior is reflected in the relative abundance of both chlorite- and smectite-group (see below)
942 minerals from about 200 Ma to the present.

943

944 *Smectite and illite versus CO₂*: Relative abundances of smectite-group minerals versus time
945 correlate with decreasing CO₂ levels (Fig. 5; PMCC = -0.62). Unlike kaolinite- and chlorite-
946 group minerals, smectite abundance is not correlated with O₂ levels over the Phanerozoic Eon as
947 a whole (PMCC = +0.12). For smectite formed during weathering processes, this behavior
948 suggests control through Equation 1. Decreasing atmospheric CO₂ levels are potentially
949 associated with less acidic weathering conditions corresponding to increased values of activity
950 ratios such as $\frac{a_{Mg^{2+}}}{(a_{H^+})^2}$, which favor smectites relative to illite-group minerals if the Mg-contents
951 of the smectites are higher than those of illite. Despite progress in the thermodynamic
952 characterization of these minerals (Vidal and Dubacq 2009; Dubacq et al. 2010), the
953 compositions of the Russian platform clays are not known, which hampers more quantitative
954 evaluations of the stability of smectite relative to illite.

955 This scenario, in which clay mineral formation links to atmospheric CO₂, requires that
956 atmospheric CO₂ levels control CO₂ concentrations in the weathering zone, which is not the case
957 in the present day (CO₂ partial pressures in modern soil zones are typically much higher than in
958 the atmosphere). However, in the early Phanerozoic Eon, atmospheric CO₂ levels could have
959 directly controlled CO₂ concentrations in the shallow subsurface. Before the rise and spread of
960 deeply rooted vascular land plants about 350 to 300 Ma ago, the partial pressure of CO₂ in the
961 soil zone was significantly lower than at present (owing to fewer respiratory processes) and thus
962 more directly responsive to the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere (Berner 2004). Consequently, a
963 decrease of atmospheric CO₂ resulted in a CO₂ decrease in the soil zone, lower acidity, and more
964 smectite relative to illite. After ~350 Ma, deep root activity and associated biological activity
965 (e.g., AMF) resulted in greater levels of CO₂ respiration in the soil zone. In turn, this biological

966 processing resulted in CO₂ concentrations in the soil zone that were not directly controlled by
967 atmospheric CO₂ levels.

968 Figure 5 offers tentative support for the above arguments; namely, the negative correlation of
969 smectite-group minerals and CO₂ levels is particularly strong from 550 to about 350 Ma;
970 however, after ~300 Ma the correlation appears weaker. A new pattern of smectite abundances
971 may have emerged between ~200 Ma and the present in terms of O₂ instead of CO₂. The relative
972 abundance of smectite-group minerals during the last 200 Ma increases directly with O₂ levels,
973 as would be expected based on the rise of EMF discussed above. Increasing O₂ in the presence of
974 EMF facilitated oxidation reactions, thereby favoring the formation of Fe³⁺-bearing smectites at
975 the expense of chlorite-group minerals (and presumably other mafic minerals, e.g., Sugimori et
976 al. 2008).

977 Relative illite abundances correlate with CO₂ levels (Fig. 6; PMCC = +0.72) but not with O₂
978 levels (PMCC = +0.13). Although significant illite must have formed by the well-documented
979 process of smectite diagenesis (Fig. 1), the correlation with CO₂ levels over hundreds of millions
980 of years suggests a strong influence of the weathering environment on illite formation as well.
981 The correlation is consistent with the notion discussed above that lower CO₂ levels favor lower
982 acidity and less illite relative to smectite. It is also plausible that the rise of terrestrial plant life
983 from the Silurian Period through the end of the Permian Period might have caused an increased
984 demand for K⁺ in soil and weathering zones, which contributed to destabilizing illite relative to
985 kaolinite-group minerals (Knoll and James 1987). Recent studies have suggested that illite may
986 be stabilized in the uppermost parts of modern soil zones, but this stabilization depends on the
987 development of abundant decayed surface organic matter such as leaf litter (Barre et al. 2009). In

988 the early to mid-Paleozoic Era, the near-surface soil zone could have been quite different (Knoll
989 and James 1987; Berner 2004).

990 Overall, the relative abundances of kaolinite- and chlorite-group minerals show negative and
991 positive correlations, respectively, with O₂ levels, whereas smectite- and illite-group minerals
992 show negative and positive correlations, respectively, with CO₂ levels. Within these overall
993 correlations, changes in the patterns of the correlations suggest that relative clay mineral
994 abundances are sensitive indicators of major biological events relevant to the weathering zone,
995 including the rise of deep-rooted vascular plants and their associated mycorrhizal fungi. These
996 correlations point to the viability of mineralogical proxies for paleo-atmospheric compositions,
997 and they emphasize the tightly linked nature of the evolution of Earth's biosphere, atmosphere,
998 and minerals deep into geologic time (Hazen et al. 2008; Sverjensky and Lee 2010).

999

1000

1001

CLAY MINERAL EVOLUTION ON MARS

1002 In contrast to Earth, recent observations have shown that the ancient surface of Mars contains
1003 a diversity of clay minerals, most of which are thought to be more than 3 billion years old
1004 (Poulet et al. 2005; Bibring et al. 2006; Mustard et al. 2008; Ehlmann et al. 2009, 2010; Milliken
1005 et al. 2009; Carter et al. 2010; Milliken and Bish 2010), though it is as yet unresolved whether
1006 these clay minerals represent primarily surface/near-surface processes (e.g., weathering,
1007 diagenesis, precipitation from fluids) or subsurface hydrothermal processes (Poulet et al. 2005;
1008 Tosca and Knoll 2009; Ehlmann et al. 2011; Meunier et al. 2012). Paradoxically, we may have
1009 much to learn about the lost evolutionary record of clay minerals on early Earth by studying their
1010 surviving counterparts in the ancient (and largely preserved) rock record of Mars.

1011 The successful landing of NASA's *Curiosity* rover in Gale Crater, coupled with observations
1012 from earlier lander, rover, and orbiter missions, provides an opportunity for comparing clay
1013 mineral evolution on Earth and Mars. Of the several modes of clay mineral paragenesis on Earth
1014 described in this study, the earliest—subsurface aqueous/hydrothermal alteration—has
1015 unambiguously occurred on Mars (Griffith and Shock 1997; Poulet et al. 2005; Bibring et al.
1016 2006; Mustard et al. 2008; Ehlmann et al. 2011; Meunier et al. 2012). The alteration of basalt
1017 and other crustal mafic lithologies to trioctahedral ferromagnesian clay minerals must have
1018 commenced early in the Pre-Noachian (>4.1 Ga) history of Mars and may continue to this day in
1019 deep hydrothermal zones. Strong evidence from regional mineralogical surveys also points to
1020 possible authigenic clay mineral formation in martian sediments (Chevier et al. 2007; Murchie et
1021 al. 2009; Milliken et al. 2009), including possible authigenesis by high-temperature fluids
1022 associated with intrusive bodies (Meunier et al. 2012).

1023 Significant evidence has accumulated that suggests Mars had abundant surface and near-
1024 surface water during its first half- to one-billion years, making it likely that a suite of authigenic
1025 clay minerals and products of water-rock interactions formed in the sediments associated with
1026 these ancient bodies of water. The timing, extent, and duration of a warm, wet martian surface
1027 environment are less certain (Squyres and Kasting 1994; Ehlmann et al. 2011). The clay minerals
1028 detected at the martian surface are found predominantly in terrains that are dated to the Noachian
1029 Eon (>3.5 Ga) based on crater counts, consistent with this time period being favorable for clay
1030 mineral formation if the clays in these deposits are detrital (Poulet et al. 2005; Mustard et al.
1031 2008; Murchie et al. 2009). However, the ages of these clay minerals would be relatively
1032 unconstrained if they are instead authigenic, as they could have formed later than the rocks in
1033 which they are contained. In contrast, younger (Hesperian-aged) terrains are characterized by the
1034 presence of sulfate salts and a paucity of clay minerals.

1035 This apparent mineralogical dichotomy has led to the hypothesis that Mars experienced a
1036 dramatic climatic change that is directly recorded in the mineralogy of martian strata (Bibring et
1037 al. 2006). Unlike Earth, which has experienced an increase in the diversity and production of
1038 clay minerals through time, the martian crust may record the opposite. Alternatively, martian
1039 clay minerals may not reflect conditions in the near-surface environment if they instead formed
1040 deep in the crust or are the products of magmatic processes (Ehlmann et al. 2011; Menuier et al.
1041 2012).

1042 Unraveling the physical and chemical weathering processes on Mars is, by necessity, quite
1043 difficult. Data returned by the *Spirit*, *Opportunity*, and *Curiosity* rovers currently provide the best
1044 *in situ* geochemical and mineralogic information. Specifically, recent X-ray diffraction data
1045 acquired by the CheMin instrument on the *Curiosity* rover have confirmed the presence of clay

1046 minerals on Mars in rock powder collected by a drill from what has been classified as a
1047 mudstone (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/msl/news/msl20130312.html); accessed
1048 04/12/2013). These clay minerals and other associated minerals and elements indicate formation
1049 in circum-neutral pH fluids. This formation environment is in contrast to those previously
1050 explored by the *Opportunity* and *Spirit* rovers which, coupled with laboratory experiments,
1051 suggest acidic conditions, iron oxidation, and low water-to-rock ratios dominating surface
1052 chemical weathering over the past several billion years of Mars' history (Hurowitz and
1053 McLennan 2007; Tosca et al. 2009; Altheide et al. 2010; Hurowitz et al. 2010). Such conditions
1054 are not favorable to extensive clay formation, in direct opposition to orbital observations of clay
1055 mineral deposits in the oldest (Noachian) terrains on Mars. The presence of a putative ancient
1056 northern ocean on Mars or a more vigorous hydrologic cycle in the first billion years would
1057 alleviate some of these discrepancies, and *Curiosity's in situ* observations of the clay minerals
1058 reported in Gale crater from orbital data (Milliken et al. 2010) will continue to provide new
1059 insight into water-rock interactions on ancient Mars.

1060 A fourth association of near-surface clay minerals on Earth is related to the exposure of low-
1061 grade, chlorite-bearing metamorphic rocks (greenschist facies) through plate tectonics processes.
1062 Plate tectonics is not active on Mars, though Yin (2012) suggested the existence of large-scale
1063 strike-slip faulting in Valles Marineris on Mars. However, asteroid impacts may have played a
1064 role in excavating clay-bearing formations of deep crustal origin (Fairén et al. 2010; Ehlmann et
1065 al. 2011). In addition, asteroid impacts may have played an indirect role in the formation of clays
1066 through the generation of deep hydrothermal zones in the vicinity of impact craters (Newsom
1067 1980; Rathbun and Squyres 2002; Abramov and Kring 2005; Schwenzer and Kring 2009; Marzo
1068 et al. 2010). Intriguingly, the vast majority of clay minerals detected from orbit thus far on Mars

1069 do not require high-temperature conditions to form. Instead, smectites, mixed-layer
1070 chlorite/smectite, and chlorite-group minerals appear to be the dominant phases and may indicate
1071 temperatures <100°C, although occurrences of prehnite and serpentine have been reported in
1072 some locations (Ehlmann et al. 2009, 2011). In the early history of Mars, impacts into a water-
1073 bearing crust would surely have produced clay minerals, and the same was likely true for Earth
1074 at that time. However, the extent to which such martian clays were altered, recycled, or exposed
1075 by erosion and later impacts remains to be determined.

1076 Based on this analysis, the diversity and relative abundances of clay minerals on Mars likely
1077 differ from Earth in several significant ways. On Mars, with a global basaltic crust and minimal
1078 granitization, trioctahedral ferromagnesian clay minerals will occur more abundantly than
1079 dioctahedral Al-Fe³⁺ species. Furthermore, dioctahedral ferric species will dominate over those
1080 of Al, at least if the clays formed at the surface. Conditions of the shallow subsurface on Mars
1081 are likely to be more reducing, suggesting that Fe²⁺ will predominate over Fe³⁺ varieties.

1082 The diversity of clay mineral species is likely to be significantly less than on Earth—perhaps
1083 limited to the 25 species suggested to occur in stage 2 and 3 environments (Tables 1 and 2).
1084 Minerals associated with Li, Zn, Ni, Cu, and Cr enrichment (through volumetrically extensive
1085 fluid-rock interaction) and subsequent weathering and secondary alteration processes on Earth
1086 are less likely to occur on Mars. By the same token, minor and trace element distributions of clay
1087 minerals on Mars are likely to differ significantly from those on Earth.

1088 Finally, there is as yet no evidence for microbially-induced clay mineral formation, much less
1089 the modes of biological weathering associated with the rise of a terrestrial biosphere—processes
1090 associated with stage 10 of Earth's clay mineral evolution. An important open question is
1091 whether any combination of clay minerals might represent a convincing biomarker. Summons et

1092 al. (2011) identified a number of biosignatures that could potentially be identified using the
1093 instruments on the *Curiosity* rover. These potential biomarkers include organism morphologies,
1094 biofabrics, diagnostic organic molecules, isotopic signatures, evidence of biomineralization and
1095 bioalteration, spatial patterns in chemistry, and biogenic gases. They considered biogenic organic
1096 molecules and biogenic atmospheric gases to be most definitive and most readily detectable by
1097 the SAM instrument on MSL.

1098 Beyond these differences in clay mineral diversity, relative abundances, and extent, a
1099 fascinating and as yet unresolved question relates to the differences in clay mineral preservation
1100 on Earth versus Mars. On Earth there is a paucity of clays > 1 Ga, but on Mars the majority of
1101 clay minerals appear to date from the planet's first billion years. These differences can be
1102 ascribed in part to the recycling of Earth's clay minerals through subduction, as well as the
1103 destruction of clay minerals through thermal metamorphism and possibly dehydration by CO₂-
1104 rich fluids (Janardhanan et al. 1979; Newton et al. 1980; Peterson and Newton 1989; Santosh et
1105 al. 1990). Nevertheless, it remains an open question why we find so few Archean clay minerals
1106 on Earth even in relatively unaltered sedimentary basins (e.g., Tosca and Knoll 2009).

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CONCLUSIONS

1109 Of the more than 4,700 known minerals on Earth, only a few dozen are classified as clay
1110 minerals, yet these species have played a major role in the evolution of Earth's near-surface
1111 environment throughout our planet's history. The four-billion-year rock record on Earth provides
1112 scant direct evidence of clay mineral diversification and increased distribution through geologic
1113 time, particularly for its first three billion years. Nevertheless, observations of more recent clay-
1114 bearing formations, coupled with our growing knowledge of the modes of clay paragenesis,
1115 provide a sound basis for understanding clay mineral evolution. Thus, it appears that the variety
1116 and volume of clay minerals present at Earth's surface has increased dramatically since planetary
1117 accretion.

1118 This overview of clay mineral evolution has focused on the appearance of new clay mineral
1119 species and groups, with hints regarding the changing distributions and volumes of those crustal
1120 phases. However, the most revealing changes in clay mineralogy through Earth history may be
1121 related to as yet unrecognized compositional variations, including trace and minor element
1122 compositions, as well as their isotopic subtleties. The effects of Earth's evolving near-surface
1123 environment, including variations in redox conditions; atmospheric, ocean, and groundwater
1124 geochemistry; tectonic processes, notably associated with orogenic activity; and the origin of life
1125 and subsequent evolution of marine and terrestrial ecosystems; must be reflected in chemical
1126 variations that have been little studied. Future work will undoubtedly shed additional light on the
1127 remarkable effects of biological activity on Earth's near-surface mineralogy, and the continuing
1128 co-evolution of the geosphere and biosphere.

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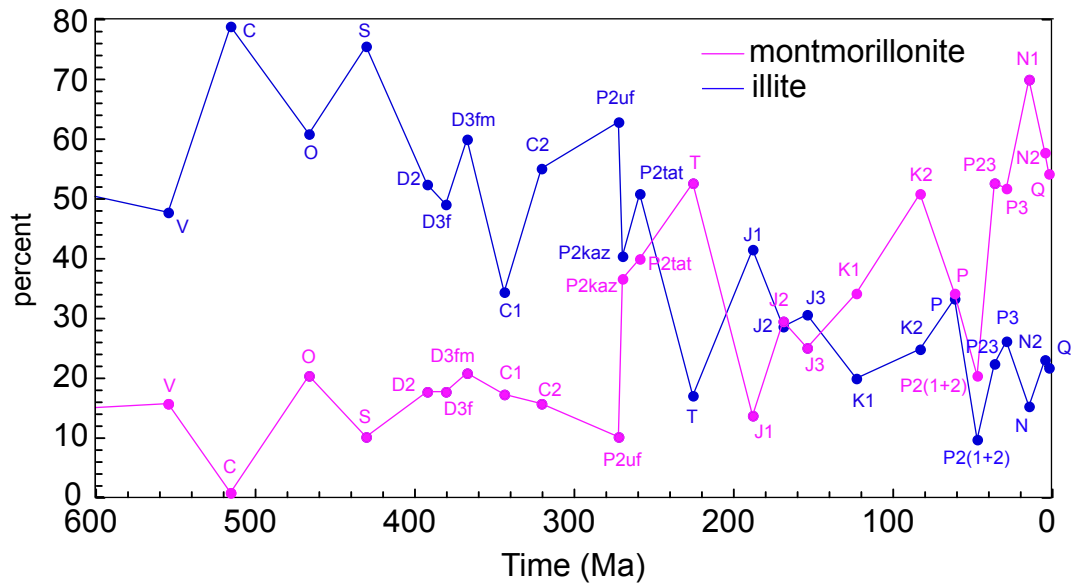
1859

Figures

1860

1861 Figure 1. Relative abundances of smectite- versus illite-group clay minerals during the
1862 Phanerozoic Eon. Data for Russian platform sediments from Ronov et al. (1990). Labels
1863 represent abbreviations for geologic time intervals (Supplementary Table S1).

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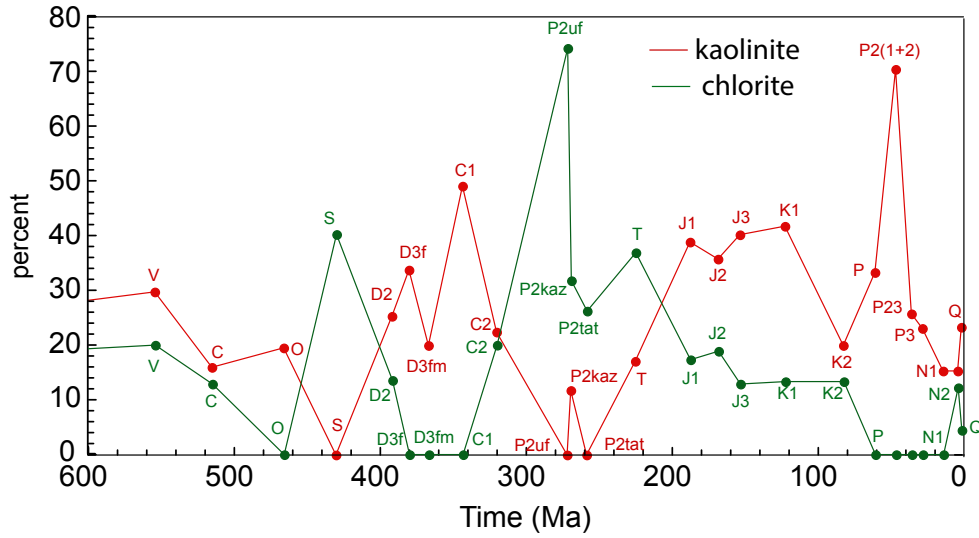


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1867 Figure 2. Relative abundances of chlorite- versus kaolinite-group clay minerals during the
1868 Phanerozoic Eon. Data for Russian platform sediments from Ronov et al. (1990). Labels
1869 represent abbreviations for geologic time intervals (Supplementary Table S1).

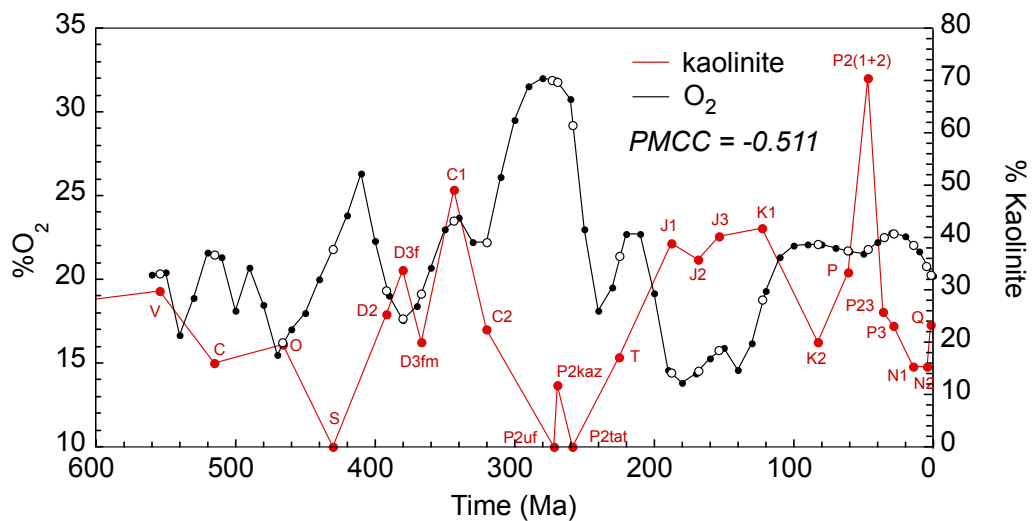
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1872 Figure 3. Relative abundance of kaolinite-group minerals in shales from the Russian platform
1873 (Ronov et al. 1990) versus values of the level of atmospheric O₂ from the GEOCARBSULF
1874 model (Berner 2006a) as functions of age. Labels represent abbreviations for geologic time
1875 intervals (Supplementary Table S1). Closed circles on O₂ curve are model calculations; open
1876 circles are interpolations to times of sampled clays. PMCC = Pearson moment correlation
1877 coefficient (see text).

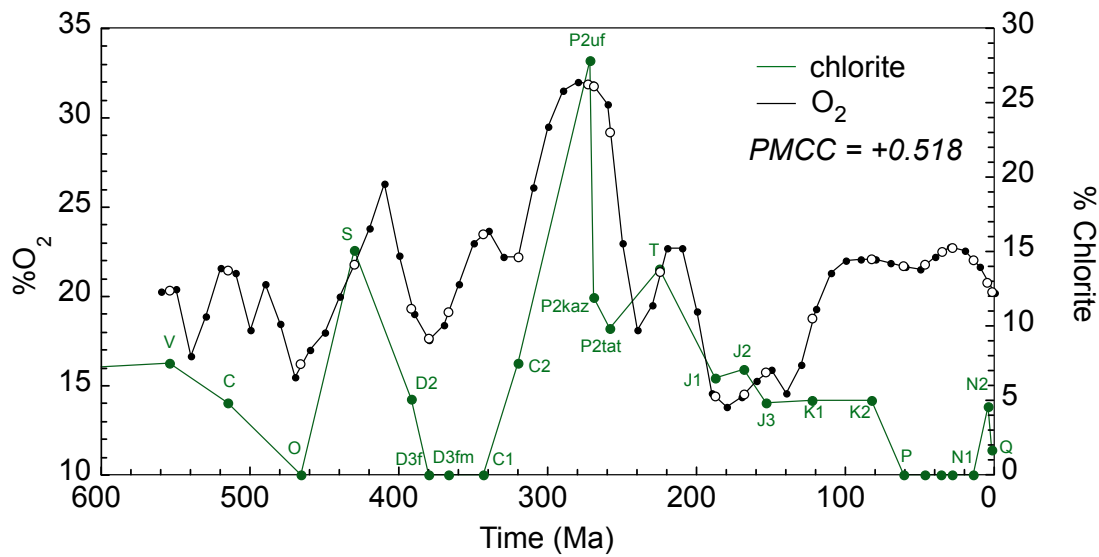
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1880 Figure 4. Relative abundance of chlorite-group minerals in shales from the Russian platform
1881 (Ronov et al. 1990) versus values of the level of atmospheric O₂ from the GEOCARBSULF
1882 model (Berner 2006a) as functions of age. Labels represent abbreviations for geologic time
1883 intervals (Supplementary Table S1). Closed circles on O₂ curve are model calculations; open
1884 circles are interpolations to times of sampled clays. PMCC = Pearson moment correlation
1885 coefficient (see text).

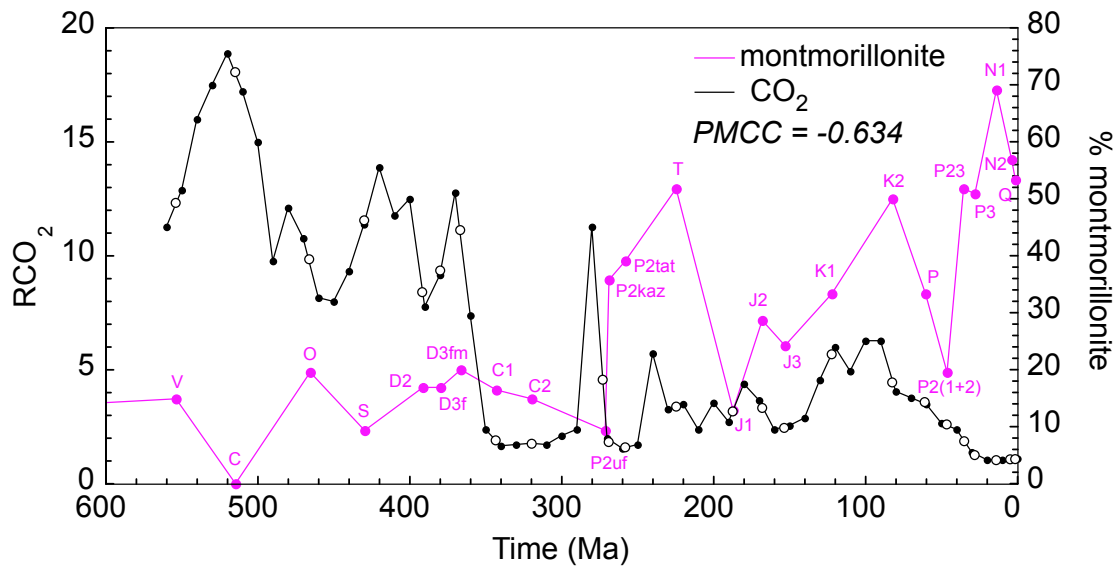
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1888 Figure 5. Relative abundances of smectite-group minerals (reported as “montmorillonite”) in
1889 shales from the Russian platform (Ronov et al. 1990) versus values of the level of atmospheric
1890 CO₂ from the GEOCARBSULF model (Bernier 2006a) as functions of age. RCO₂ denotes CO₂
1891 concentration relative to present-day. Labels represent abbreviations for geologic time intervals
1892 (Supplementary Table S1). Closed circles on CO₂ curve are model calculations; open circles are
1893 interpolations to times of sampled clays. PMCC = Pearson moment correlation coefficient (see
1894 text).

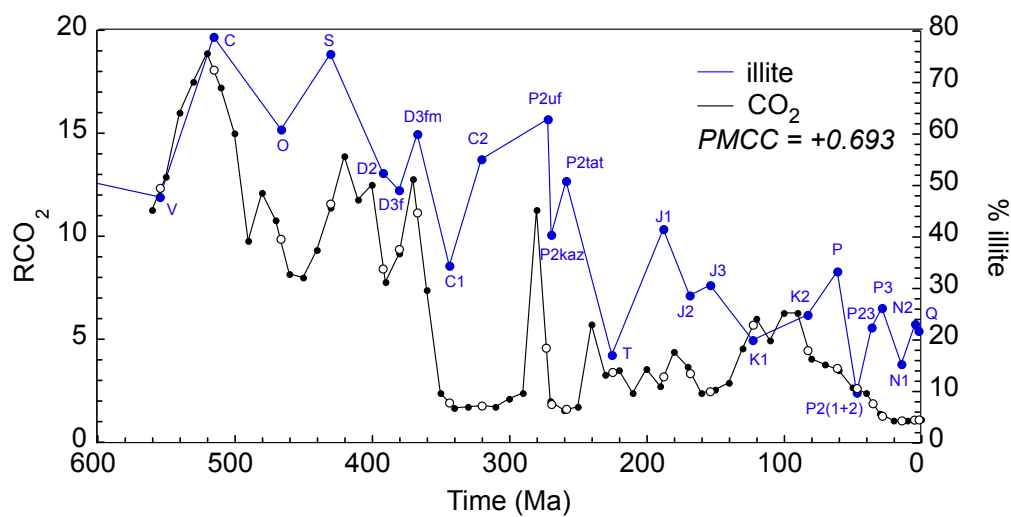
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1897 Figure 6. Relative abundances of illite-group minerals in shales from the Russian platform
1898 (Ronov et al. 1990) versus values of the level of atmospheric CO₂ from the GEOCARBSULF
1899 model (Berner 2006a) as functions of age. RCO₂ denotes CO₂ concentration relative to present-
1900 day. Labels represent abbreviations for geologic time intervals (Supplementary Table S1).
1901 Closed circles on CO₂ curve are model calculations; open circles are interpolations to times of
1902 sampled clays. PMCC = Pearson moment correlation coefficient (see text).

1903



1904

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

This document provides detailed information on the sources of the data for the atmospheric O₂ and CO₂ time series of Berner (2006, 2009), and the clay abundance time series of Ronov et al. (1990), and the statistical procedure that was used to examine their correlations.

A. Russian Platform clay abundance time series

The relative abundances of the kaolinite group, chlorite group, smectite group (reported as “montmorillonite”), and illite group minerals were taken from Table 1 in Ronov et al. (1990). The times assigned to the values were adjusted to GTS 2004 (Gradstein et al. 2004), using Russian zonation-to-standard chronostratigraphy information and geochronologic updates in *TS Creator* (2010). Specific ages were assigned by taking the average of the beginning and end of each series or stage. This procedure provides four clay abundance time series sampled at 25 time points throughout the Phanerozoic at a mean spacing of 23 Ma. Data are reported in Tables S1 and S3 below and plotted in Figs. 3-6 of the main manuscript.

B. Model O₂ and CO₂ time series

Values and times for the GEOCARBSULF-modeled atmospheric O₂ and CO₂ time series were obtained by digitizing the data points in Berner (2009) and (2006), respectively, as reported in Table S2 of this document. These values were smoothed and interpolated graphically to give values at the same ages represented by the mineral abundance data in order to carry out the statistical tests referred to below. The data are given in Table S3 below.

C. Statistical correlation

The sample Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient (PMCC) is a standard statistical measure of linear correlation between two variables X_1 and Y_1 (Snedecor and Cochran 1989):

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2}}$$

In this case, X corresponds to the set of n abundances and Y to the set of n modeled O_2 (or CO_2) values, that are paired with respect to time, with $n=25$, and \bar{X} and \bar{Y} correspond to sample means of X and Y.

The value of r falls in the range of ± 1 , where $r = -1$ signifies a perfect negative correlation, $r = +1$ a perfect positive correlation, and 0 no correlation between the variables. If X and Y are uncorrelated and normally distributed, the distribution of r follows Student's t distribution with $n - 2$ degrees of freedom, centered on $r = 0$. Hypothesis testing can be carried out with Student t critical values. An alternative approach, known as Fisher transformation, transforms r into a variable that is effectively normally distributed with a standard error $s_z = 1/(n-3)^{-0.5}$:

$$z = 0.5 [\ln(1+r) - \ln(1-r)]$$

for which the 95% confidence limits are the usual $z \pm 95\% = \pm 1.96s_z$. Inverse transformation gives $r \pm 95\% = \pm \exp[2(1.96s_z) - 1] / \exp[2(1.96s_z) + 1]$.

As an example, PMCC computation for the kaolinite versus modeled O_2 time series gives the following: $r = -0.5105$, $s_z = 0.2132$, and $r \pm 95\% = \pm 0.3951$. The null hypothesis that the two time series are not correlated (actual $r = 0$) requires that calculated r occur within the $r \pm 95\%$ confidence limits. It does not; consequently, the two time series are significantly negatively correlated. The $r \pm 95\%$ confidence limits of ± 0.3951 are assumed for all of the correlations discussed in this study.

Values of PMCC were determined for all possible pairs of clay minerals and the atmospheric variables O₂ and CO₂ and are listed in Table S4.

Supplemental References

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TSCreator visualization of enhanced Geologic Time Scale 2004 database (Version 4.2.1; 2010)
James Ogg (database coordinator) and Adam Lugowski (software developer)
<http://www.tscreator.org>

Table S1. Relative abundances of clay minerals from Ronov et al. (1990) as percentages of the total clays for individual time intervals through the Phanerozoic and late Precambrian.

Name ^a	Age ^b	Label	Kaolinite	Illite	Montmor.	Chlorite	Name ^c
L. Riphean	1300	R1	17.5	68.4	8.8	5.3	Ectasian Period
M. Riphean	1100	R2	16.4	78.7	3.3	1.6	Stenian Period
U. Riphean	925	R3	16.4	70.5	8.2	4.9	Tonian Period
Vendian	554.5	V	29.9	47.8	14.9	7.5	Vendian
Cambrian	515.15	C	16.1	79.0	0.0	4.8	Cambrian
Ordovician	466	O	19.6	60.8	19.6	0.0	Ordovician
Silurian	429.85	S	0.0	75.5	9.4	15.1	Silurian
M. Devonian	391.4	D2	25.4	52.5	16.9	5.1	M. Devonian
Frasnian	379.9	D3f	33.9	49.2	16.9	0.0	Frasnian
Famennian	366.85	D3fm	20.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	Famennian
L. Carboniferous	343.75	C1	49.2	34.4	16.4	0.0	L.+M. Miss.
M. Carboniferous	320	C2	22.4	55.2	14.9	7.5	U. Miss. + L. Penn.
Ufa Stage	271.6	P2uf	0.0	63.0	9.3	27.8	Ufimian Stage
Kazanian Stage	269.3	P2kaz	11.9	40.5	35.7	11.9	Kazanian Stage
Tatar Stage	258.4	P2tat	0.0	51.0	39.2	9.8	Tatarian Stage
Triassic	225.3	T	17.2	17.2	51.7	13.8	Triassic
L. Jurassic	187.6	J1	39.0	41.6	13.0	6.5	L. Jurassic
M. Jurassic	168.4	J2	35.7	28.6	28.6	7.1	M. Jurassic
U. Jurassic	153.35	J3	40.3	30.6	24.2	4.8	U. Jurassic
L. Cretaceous	122.55	K1	41.7	20.0	33.3	5.0	L. Cretaceous
U. Cretaceous	82.55	K2	20.0	25.0	50.0	5.0	U. Cretaceous
Paleocene	60.65	P	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	Paleocene
L.+M. Eocene	46.5	P2(1+2)	70.6	9.8	19.6	0.0	L. + M. Eocene
U. Eocene	35.55	P23	25.9	22.4	51.7	0.0	U. Eocene
Oligocene	28.45	P3	23.1	26.2	50.8	0.0	Oligocene
Miocene	14.15	N1	15.4	15.4	69.2	0.0	Miocene
Pliocene	4.05	N2	15.4	23.1	56.9	4.6	Pliocene
Quaternary	1.4	Q	23.3	21.7	53.3	1.7	Quaternary

a. Geologic time intervals listed by Ronov et al. (1990).

b. Age in Ma.

c. Geologic time intervals from Gradstein et al. (2004)

Table S2. Values of the atmospheric O₂ and CO₂ levels from the GEOCARBSULF model of Berner (2006, 2009).

Age ^{a.}	% O ₂ ^{b.}	R(CO ₂) ^{c.}	Age	% O ₂	R(CO ₂)
560	20.3	11.3			
550	20.4	12.9	270	31.9	2.01
540	16.7	16.0	260	30.8	1.56
530	18.9	17.5	250	23.0	1.70
520	21.6	18.9	240	18.1	5.71
510	21.3	17.2	230	19.5	3.27
500	18.1	15.0	220	22.7	3.49
490	20.7	9.81	210	22.7	2.39
480	18.5	12.1	200	19.2	3.55
470	15.5	10.8	190	14.6	2.72
460	17.0	8.18	180	13.8	4.40
450	18.0	8.01	170	14.4	3.67
440	20.0	9.32	160	15.3	2.39
430	21.8	11.4	150	15.9	2.58
420	23.8	13.9	140	14.6	2.90
410	26.3	11.8	130	16.2	4.56
400	22.3	12.5	120	19.3	6.03
390	19.0	7.79	110	21.3	4.93
380	17.6	9.19	100	22.0	6.30
370	18.4	12.8	90	22.1	6.27
360	20.7	7.42	80	22.1	4.08
350	23.0	2.39	70	21.9	3.77
340	23.7	1.68	60	21.7	3.48
330	22.2	1.73	50	21.5	2.68
320	22.2	1.80	40	22.2	2.41
310	26.1	1.70	30	22.8	1.42
300	29.5	2.14	20	22.6	1.06
290	31.5	2.40	10	21.7	1.04
280	32.0	11.3	0	20.2	1.11

a. Age in Ma.

b. Atmospheric O₂ level in percent from the GEOCARBSULF model (Berner, 2009).

c. Atmospheric CO₂ level from the GEOCARBSULF model (Berner, 2006), where R(CO₂) refers to the ratio of CO₂ in the past to that at present.

Table S3. Relative abundances of clay minerals from Ronov et al. (1990) and smoothed atmospheric O₂ and CO₂ levels from GEOCARBSULF at the same time intervals used for statistical analyses (see text).

Name ^a	Age ^b	Label	Kaolinite	Illite	Montmor.	Chlorite	Name ^c
L. Riphean	1300	R1	17.5	68.4	8.8	5.3	Ectasian Period
M. Riphean	1100	R2	16.4	78.7	3.3	1.6	Stenian Period
U. Riphean	925	R3	16.4	70.5	8.2	4.9	Tonian Period
Vendian	554.5	V	29.9	47.8	14.9	7.5	Vendian
Cambrian	515.15	C	16.1	79.0	0.0	4.8	Cambrian
Ordovician	466	O	19.6	60.8	19.6	0.0	Ordovician
Silurian	429.85	S	0.0	75.5	9.4	15.1	Silurian
M. Devonian	391.4	D2	25.4	52.5	16.9	5.1	M. Devonian
Frasnian	379.9	D3f	33.9	49.2	16.9	0.0	Frasnian
Famennian	366.85	D3fm	20.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	Famennian
L. Carboniferous	343.75	C1	49.2	34.4	16.4	0.0	L.+M. Miss.
M. Carboniferous	320	C2	22.4	55.2	14.9	7.5	U. Miss. + L. Penn.
Ufa Stage	271.6	P2uf	0.0	63.0	9.3	27.8	Ufimian Stage
Kazanian Stage	269.3	P2kaz	11.9	40.5	35.7	11.9	Kazanian Stage
Tatar Stage	258.4	P2tat	0.0	51.0	39.2	9.8	Tatarian Stage
Triassic	225.3	T	17.2	17.2	51.7	13.8	Triassic
L. Jurassic	187.6	J1	39.0	41.6	13.0	6.5	L. Jurassic
M. Jurassic	168.4	J2	35.7	28.6	28.6	7.1	M. Jurassic
U. Jurassic	153.35	J3	40.3	30.6	24.2	4.8	U. Jurassic
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U. Cretaceous	82.55	K2	20.0	25.0	50.0	5.0	U. Cretaceous
Paleocene	60.65	P	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	Paleocene
L.+M. Eocene	46.5	P2(1+2)	70.6	9.8	19.6	0.0	L. + M. Eocene
U. Eocene	35.55	P23	25.9	22.4	51.7	0.0	U. Eocene
Oligocene	28.45	P3	23.1	26.2	50.8	0.0	Oligocene
Miocene	14.15	N1	15.4	15.4	69.2	0.0	Miocene
Pliocene	4.05	N2	15.4	23.1	56.9	4.6	Pliocene
Quaternary	1.4	Q	23.3	21.7	53.3	1.7	Quaternary

a. Geologic time intervals listed by Ronov et al. (1990).

b. Age in Ma.

c. Geologic time intervals from Gradstein et al. (2004)

d. Atmospheric O₂ level in percent at the same time interval as the clay abundances.

e. Atmospheric CO₂ level at the same time interval as the clay abundances. R(CO₂) refers to the ratio of CO₂ in the past to that at present.

Table S4. Summary of the correlations between clay mineral relative abundances and atmospheric O₂ and CO₂ levels. Values cited are Pearson product-moment correlation coefficients (PMCC).

	Kaolinite	Illite	Smectite	Chlorite	% O ₂
Kaolinite Group					
Illite Group	-0.497				
Smectite Group	-0.154	-0.742			
Chlorite Group	-0.551	0.362	-0.254		
% O ₂	-0.498	0.131	0.115	0.510	
R(CO ₂)	-0.137	0.716	-0.617	-0.035	-0.273

Table 1: Clay mineral evolution. Ten stages of Earth's mineral evolution saw changing rates and diversity of clay mineral formation. Note that the timings of some of these stages overlap, and several stages continue into the present (adapted from Hazen et al. 2008; Elmore 2009). Cumulative species refers to the total number of mineral species present, not just clay minerals.

Stage	New Clay Minerals*	Age (Ga)	~# species
1. Chondrites; Nebular processes	Primary high-T condensates; No clay minerals	>4.56 Ga	60
2. Aqueous alteration of C chondrites	Primarily Mg-Fe ²⁺ species: 8-10, 12-14, 34, 39, 46	>4.56 to 4.55 Ga	250
3. Earliest Hadean Earth; alteration of ultramafic and basaltic crust	Serpentinization and seafloor alteration dominate: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 16, 17, 22, 24, 25, 27, 33, 35, 40, 50	<4.55 Ga	420
4. Formation of granitoids and pegmatites	Saprolites from granites/rare pegmatite clays: 3, 21, 31, 43, 44, 51, 55, 56	uncertain, >3.5 Ga	~1000
5. Initiation of plate tectonics	Metamorphic clay minerals from tectonic facies: 47, 49, 52	uncertain, > 3.0 Ga	~1500
6. Origin of life; chemolithoautotrophs	Chemical weathering of terrestrial environments: 19, 23	>3.6 to 2.5 Ga	~1500
7. Great Oxidation Event	Clay minerals from oxidation reactions: 6, 18, 20, 26, 32, 36-38, 41, 42, 45, 53, 54	2.5 to 1.9 Ga	>4000
8. Intermediate Ocean	No new clay minerals; Global sedimentation/widespread clay deposition	1.9 to 1.0 Ga	>4000
9. Snowball Earth/Hothouse cycles	No new clay minerals; Episodic clay mineral production	1.0 to 0.542 Ga	>4000
10. Rise of the terrestrial biosphere	Increased biogenic clay mineral production: 15, 28-30, 48	0.542 Ga to present	>4700

*See Table 2, column 1 for clay mineral number key.

Table 2: Ten clay mineral groups and 56 phyllosilicate clay mineral species (as listed on <http://rruff.info/ima/>) cited in text, with their distributions through Earth history, paragenetic modes, and precursor minerals. Modified and expanded from Hower and Mowatt (1966), Brindley (1980), Bailey (1980, 1988a), Srodon (1984), Moore and Reynolds (1997), and web databases, including <http://www.mindat.org> and <http://webmineral.com/data>.

#. Group/Species Name	Ideal Formula	Stages ¹	Paragenetic Modes ² ; Precursor Minerals	References ³
<u>Kaolinite Group (7 Å dioctahedral 1:1 layer structure)</u>				
1. Kaolinite	Al ₂ Si ₂ O ₅ (OH) ₄	(3),4	HYDR—feldspars, feldspathoids, muscovite, biotite	1-3
		4	WEAT—granite, aluminosilicates	4, 5
		4	DEHY—halloysite-10Å	6
		4	AUTH—detrital sediments	4
		10	SOIL,BIOL—illite, vermiculite	7-9
2. Dickite	Al ₂ Si ₂ O ₅ (OH) ₄	(3),4	HYDR—aluminosilicates; DIAG—kaolinite	10
		(3),4	AUTH—sediments	10
3. Nacrite	Al ₂ Si ₂ O ₅ (OH) ₄	4	HYDR—aluminosilicates	10
4. Halloysite-7Å	Al ₂ Si ₂ O ₅ (OH) ₄	3	HYDR—aluminosilicates in mafic and ultramafic rocks	1, 11,12
		4	WEAT—felsic igneous and metamorphic rocks	13-18
		4	DEHY—halloysite-10Å above 110°C	19
5. Halloysite-10Å	Al ₂ Si ₂ O ₅ (OH) ₄ ·2H ₂ O	3	HYDR—aluminosilicates in mafic and ultramafic rocks	1,11,12
		3,10	WEAT,SOIL—mafic and ultramafic rocks	13-18
6. Hisingerite	(Fe ³⁺) ₂ Si ₂ O ₅ (OH) ₄ ·2H ₂ O	7,10	OXID,WEAT—Fe silicates or sulfides	20
<u>Serpentine Group (7 Å trioctahedral 1:1 layer structure)</u>				
7. Amesite	Mg ₂ Al(SiAl)O ₅ (OH) ₄	(3),(5)	RMET,HYDR—Al-Mg-rich rocks	10
8. Antigorite	Mg ₃ Si ₂ O ₅ (OH) ₄	(2)	ACHN—C chondrites	21

		3	HYDR,SERP—ultramafics	22
		6	CMET—dolostone transformed to forsterite	10
9. Chrysotile	$\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(2)	ACHN—CM chondrites	21
		3	HYDR,SERP—mafic and ultramafic rocks	22
10. Lizardite	$\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(2)	ACHN—C chondrites	21
		3	HYDR,SERP—olivine, orthopyroxene	10,22
11. Caryopilite	$(\text{Mn}^{2+})_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(3),(5)	CMET,HYDR—Mn minerals, such as rhodonite	23
		(6)	WEAT—Mn deposits	23
12. Berthierine	$(\text{Fe}^{2+},\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Al})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(2)	ACHN—CM chondrites	21
		(3),4	AUTH—banded iron formations, marine sediments	24
		10	LATR,BIOL—soils	24
13. Cronstedtite	$(\text{Fe}^{2+}_2\text{Fe}^{3+})_3(\text{Si},\text{Fe}^{3+})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(2)	ACHN—CM chondrites	21
		7	OXID,HYDR—ore veins	10
14. Greenalite	$(\text{Fe}^{2+},\text{Fe}^{3+})_{2-3}\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(2)	ACHN—CM chondrites	21
		(6),7	AUTH—banded iron formations	25
15. Odinite	$(\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Mg},\text{Al},\text{Fe}^{2+})_{2.5}(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(10)	BIOL,AUTH—tropical reefs	26
16. Népouite	$\text{Ni}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(3)	HYDR,SERP—Ni-rich ultramafic rocks	27
		(10)	LATR—Ni laterites	27
17. Pecoraite	$\text{Ni}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(3)	HYDR—Ni-rich ultramafic rocks	28
		(4)	WEAT—millerite (NiS)	28
18. Brindleyite	$(\text{Ni},\text{Al})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(7)	OXID,WEAT—ultramafic rocks, bauxite deposits	29
19. Kellyite	$(\text{Mn}^{2+},\text{Mg},\text{Al})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	6	HYDR,WEAT—Mn-bearing carbonates and basic rocks	30
20. Fraipontite	$(\text{Zn},\text{Al})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$	(7)	OXID,HYDR,WEAT—Zn-bearing rocks	31
21. Manandonite	$\text{Li}_2\text{Al}_4(\text{Si}_2\text{AlB})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(4)	HYDR,WEAT—complex Li-B pegmatites	32
<u>Talc Group (10 Å trioctahedral, non-expandable 2:1 layer structure; no interlayer cations):</u>				
22. Talc	$\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	3	HYDR—olivines and non-Al pyroxenes	7,10,33

		(3),4	WEAT—ultramafic	1,34
		5	RMET—Mg-rich rocks	1
23. Minnesotaite	$(\text{Fe}^{2+})_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	(6),7	RMET—banded iron formations	10,35
24. Willemseite	$\text{Ni}_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	(3)	HYDR—Ni-bearing igneous rocks	36

Pyrophyllite Group (10 Å dioctahedral, non-expandable 2:1 layer structure; no interlayer cations):

25. Pyrophyllite	$\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	(3),4	HYDR—feldspar	10
		(5)	RMET—kyanite, Al-pyroxene	10
26. Ferripyrophyllite	$\text{Fe}^{3+}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	(7)	OXID, HYDR—iron formations	37

Palygorskite-Sepiolite Group (10 Å di- and trioctahedral, expandable 2:1 layer structure; usually in fibrous habit):

27. Sepiolite	$\text{Mg}_4\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{15}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3	SERP—mafic rocks	10,38
		4	AUTH—alkaline saline waters in arid environments	10
28. Loughlinite	$\text{Na}_2\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{16} \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(10)	RMET—dolomitic shale	39
29. Falcondoite	$\text{Ni}_4\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{15}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(10)	LATR—serpentinized Ni-rich harzburgite	40
30. Palygorskite	$(\text{Mg}, \text{Al})_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH}) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	10	SOIL—Mg silicates	10,38
31. Yofortierite	$\text{Mn}^{2+}_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 8\text{-}9\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(4)	HYDR—pegmatite in nepheline syenite	41
32. Tuperssuatsiaite	$\text{NaFe}^{3+}_3\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(7)	OXID, HYDR—sodalite-nepheline syenite pegmatite	42

Smectite and Vermiculite Groups (10 Å di- and trioctahedral, expandable 2:1 layer structure; no interlayer cations):

33. Vermiculite	$\text{Mg}_{0.7}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{3+}, \text{Al})_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(3),4	HYDR, WEAT—Mg micas, muscovite	1,10,33,43-48
		4	SOIL—clay minerals	45,46
		(5)	RMET—limestone	10
34. Saponite	$(\text{Ca}, \text{Na})_{0.3}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})_3(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(2)	ACHN—CAIs, matrix, and chondrules in chondrites	21
		3	HYDR, SERP—basalt, skarns, amphibolites	33,48-50
35. Ferrosaponite	$\text{Ca}_{0.3}(\text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{3+})_3(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(3)	HYDR—basalt	49,51

36. Sauconite	$\text{Na}_{0.3}\text{Zn}_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(7)	OXID,HYDR—Zn ores	52
37. Zincsilite	$\text{Zn}_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(7)	OXID, HYDR—Zn ores	53
38. Yakhontovite	$(\text{Ca},\text{Na},\text{K})_{0.2}(\text{Cu},\text{Fe},\text{Mg})_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(7)	OXID,WEAT—Cu sulfide ore	54
39. Montmorillonite	$(\text{Na},\text{Ca})_{0.3}(\text{Al},\text{Mg})_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2	ACHN—CAIs and matrix in chondrites	21
		3	HYDR—volcanic and intrusive rocks	1,2,10,55,56
		3	WEAT--volcanic tuff and ash	1,2,10,57,58
40. Beidellite	$(\text{Na},\text{Ca})_{0.3}\text{Al}_2(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3	HYDR—volcanics (bentonites)	10,43,56,59,60
		4	SOIL—mafic rocks	10,59
		(5)	HYDR—porphyry Cu	10,59
41. Nontronite	$\text{Na}_{0.3}\text{Fe}^{3+}_2(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$	7	OXID,WEAT—basalt and ultramafic rocks	10,61,62
		7	OXID, HYDR—mafic rocks	10,55,56,63,64
		(7)	CMET—limestone	10
		7	OXID,AUTH—marine sediments	10,58,65
42. Volkonskoite	$\text{Ca}_{0.3}(\text{Cr},\text{Mg})_2(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4(\text{H}_2\text{O})$	(7),(10)	OXID,WEAT—serpentinites	66
		(10)	AUTH,BIOL—sediments with organics	66
43. Swinefordite	$\text{Ca}_{0.2}(\text{Li},\text{Al},\text{Mg},\text{Fe})_3(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH},\text{F})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(4)	AUTH—spodumene in pegmatites	67
<u>Illite Group (10 Å dioctahedral, 2:1 layer structure; with interlayer cations):</u>				
44. Illite ⁴	$[\text{K}_{0.6}(\text{H}_3\text{O})_{0.4}]\text{Al}_{1.3}\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Fe}^{2+}_{0.1}\text{Si}_{3.5}\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})$	4	AUTH,WEAT—feldspar	1,2,10,43,44,68
		4	HYDR—muscovite-phengite	1,2,10,12,33,68
		4	SOIL—smectite	1,10,69
45. Glauconite ⁴	$(\text{K},\text{Na})(\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Al},\text{Mg})_2(\text{Si},\text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	7	DIAG,RDUC—biotite in shallow water	10,70
		7,10	BIOL—biotite alteration with organics	71
<u>Chlorite Group (14 Å di- and trioctahedral, 2:1:1 layer structure):</u>				
46. Clinocllore	$\text{Mg}_6\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(2)	ACHN—chondrite	21
		3	HYDR—amphibole, pyroxene, biotite	10

		5	RMET—chlorite schist, marble, amphibolite, ultramafic	10,22,72
47. Chamosite	$(\text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Mg}, \text{Al}, \text{Fe}^{3+})_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH}, \text{O})_8$	5	RMET—Fe, Mg silicates	22,72
		7,10	AUTH, RDUC—sedimentary ironstones and organics	10
48. Orthochamosite	$\text{Fe}^{2+}_5\text{Al}(\text{Si}, \text{Al})\text{O}_{10}(\text{O}, \text{OH})_8$	(10)	LATR—olivine basalt	73
49. Pennantite	$(\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Al})_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(5)	RMET—Fe, Mg silicates	22,72
		(7)	HYDR—Mn deposits	74
50. Nimite	$(\text{Ni}, \text{Mg}, \text{Al})_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(3)	HYDR, SERP—Ultramafic Ni deposits	75
		(5)	RMET—Fe, Mg silicates	22,72
51. Donbassite	$\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_3\text{Al})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{Al}_{2.33}(\text{OH})_6$	(4)	AUTH—Al-rich sediments	76
		(5)	HYDR—andalusite	76
52. Sudoite	$\text{Mg}_2\text{Al}_3(\text{Si}_3\text{Al})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(6),(7)	OXID, HYDR—hematite ore	77
		(5)	AUTH—aeolian sandstones	78
		(5)	RMET—low-grade assemblages	79
53. Gonyerite	$\text{Mn}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}(\text{Si}_3\text{Fe}^{3+})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(7)	OXID, HYDR—Mn deposits, skarns	80
54. Baileychlore	$(\text{Zn}, \text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Al}, \text{Mg})_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(7)	OXID; WEAT—Zn ores, skarns	81
55. Cookeite	$(\text{Al}, \text{Li})_3\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(4)	HYDR—tourmaline and lepidolite in pegmatites	10
56. Borocookeite	$\text{LiAl}_4(\text{Si}_3\text{B})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_8$	(4)	HYDR; tourmaline in pegmatites	82

¹See Table 1 for the list of 10 stages of mineral evolution. Parentheses indicate relatively minor clay mineral production during that stage.

²Paragenetic modes include: ACHN = achondrite alteration; AUTH = authigenesis; BIOL = biological mediated; CMET = contact metamorphism; DEHY = dehydration; DIAG = diagenesis; HYDR = hydrothermal alteration; LATR = laterite formation; META = regional metamorphism; OXID = oxidative weathering; RDUC = reduction; RMET = regional metamorphism; SERP = serpentinization; SOIL = Phanerozoic soil formation; WEAT = subaerial weathering

³References: 1. Weaver (1989); 2. Berner (1971); 3. Stoch & Sikora (1976); 4. Keller (1970); 5. Meunier (1980); 6. Giese (1988); 7. Newman (1987); 8. Calvert et al. (1980); 9. Siffert (1978); 10. Deer et al. (1962); 11. Joussein et al. (2005); 12. Maksimović & Brindley (1980); 13. Huang (1974); 14. Dudas & Harward (1975); 15. Romero et al. (1992); 16. Ziegler et al. (2003); 17. Churchman (2000); 18. Brindley & Goodyear (1948); 19. Tazaki (2005); 20. Eggleston and Tilley (1998); 21. Brearley & Jones (1998); 22. Alt & Bach (2001); 23. Peacor & Essene (1980); 24. Brindley (1982); 25. Jolliffe (1935); 26. Bailey (1988b); 27. Brindley and Wan (1975); 28. Milton et al. (1983); 29. Maksimović & Bish (1978); 30. Peacor et al. (1974); 31. Fransolet & Bourguignon (1975); 32. Ranoroa

et al. (1989); 33. Velde (1985); 34. Whitney & Eberl (1982); 35. Gruner (1944); 36. De Waal (1970a); 37. Badaut et al. (1992); 38. Bailey (1988a); 39. Fahey et al. (1960); 40. Springer (1976); 41. Perrault et al. (1975); 42. Karup-Moller & Petersen (1984); 43. Meunier & Velde (1979); 44. Velde & Weir (1979); 45. Roy & Romo (1957); 46. Jackson et al. (1952); 47. Johnson (1964); 48. Caillaud et al. (2006); 49. Nozaka et al. (2008); 50. Ames and Sands (1958); 51. Chukanov et al. (2003); 52. Ross (1946); 53. Smol'yaninova et al. (1961); 54. Postnikova et al. (1991); 55. Singer & Stoffers (1987); 56. Linares (1987); 57. Christidis & Huff (2009); 58. Harder (1972); 59. Weir & Greene-Kelly (1962); 60. Proust & Velde (1978); 61. Harder (1976); 62. Ducloux et al. (1976); 63. Murname & Clague (1983); 64. Alt (1988); 65. Bischoff (1972); 66. Khoury et al. (1984); 67. Tien et al. (1975); 68. Hower & Mowatt (1966); 69. Kim et al. (2004); 70. Meunier & El Albani (2007); 71. Odin (1988); 72. Alt et al. (1995); 73. Novák et al. (1957); 74. Smith et al. (1946); 75. De Waal (1970b); 76. Lazarenko (1941); 77. Eggleston & Bailey (1967); 78. von Engelhardt et al. (1962); 79. Kramm (1980); 80. Frondel (1955); 81. Rule and Radke (1988); 82. Zagorsky et al. (2003)

⁴IMA status uncertain

Table 3. IMA approved and provisional clay-like minerals cited in text, selected widely cited but not IMA approved clay minerals, and related clay-like materials.

IMA Approved Mixed-Layer Clay Minerals

Corrensite	$(\text{Ca}, \text{Na}, \text{K})_{1-x}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}, \text{Al})_9(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_{10} \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Interstratified trioctahedral chlorite with trioctahedral vermiculite (“corrensite-1”) or with trioctahedral smectite (“corrensite-2”)
Rectorite	$(\text{Na}, \text{Ca})\text{Al}_4(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Interstratified dioctahedral mica and smectite; alteration of K-feldspar or muscovite
Dozyite	$\text{Mg}_7\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_4\text{Al}_2)\text{O}_{15}(\text{OH})_{12}$	Interstratified serpentine and chlorite; altered skarn
Tosudite	$\text{Na}_{0.5}(\text{Al}, \text{Mg})_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{18}(\text{OH})_{12} \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Interstratified dioctahedral chlorite and smectite; hydrothermal alteration of tuffs, andesites
Kulkeite	$\text{Na}_{0.3}\text{Mg}_8\text{Al}(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_{10}$	Interstratified trioctahedral chlorite and talc; meta-evaporite sequence
Aliettite	$\text{Ca}_{0.2}\text{Mg}_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Interstratified talc and saponite; occurs in low-T ancient lake sediments; low-grade Mg-rich metamorphic rocks
Hydrobiotite	$\text{K}(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})_6(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_4 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Interstratified biotite and vermiculite; sedimentary environments
Lunijianlaite	$\text{Li}_{0.7}\text{Al}_{6.2}(\text{Si}_7\text{Al})_{20}(\text{OH}, \text{O})_{10}$	Interstratified cookeite and pyrophyllite; pegmatite alteration
Saliotite	$(\text{Li}, \text{Na})\text{Al}_3(\text{Si}_3\text{Al})\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_5$	Interstratified cookeite and paragonite; pegmatite alteration

Selected Oxide-Hydroxides

Boehmite	$\text{AlO}(\text{OH})$
Brucite	$\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$
Diaspore	$\text{AlO}(\text{OH})$
Gibbsite	$\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$

Amorphous Clay-Related Phases

Allophane	$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(\text{SiO}_2)_{1.3-2.0} \cdot 2.5-3.0\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Weathering of volcanic ash; hydrothermal alteration of feldspar
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Imogolite	$\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_3(\text{OH})_4$	Soils derived from volcanic ash
Neotocite	$(\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Fe}^{2+})\text{SiO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	Alteration of Mn-bearing sediments

Clay Minerals Widely Cited but not Approved by the International Mineralogical Association.

Hectorite	$\text{Na}_{0.3}(\text{Mg}, \text{Li})_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	Discredited vermiculite group; Hot springs alteration of volcanic tuff
Stevensite	$(\text{Ca}_{0.5}, \text{Na})_x\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	Discredited vermiculite group; Hydrothermal replacement of pectolite
Phengite	$\text{K}(\text{Mg}, \text{Al})_2(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$	Discredited illite group; Equivalent to fine-grained muscovite-celadonite
Kerolite	$(\text{Mg}, \text{Ni})_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	Discredited talc group; Lateritic soils

Unofficial clay-related terms, including clay rocks and commonly used designations for clay-like substances.

Attapulgit	A soil rich in smectite and palagorskite; mined in southern U.S. as binder for paints and numerous other applications.
Bauxite	An aluminum ore consisting primarily of the aluminum oxide-hydrates gibbsite, diaspore and boehmite.
Bentonite	A clay rock formed principally of smectite, especially members of the montmorillonite-beidellite series
Endellite	Synonym for halloysite-10Å
Hydrated halloysite	Synonym for halloysite-10Å
Kandites	The kaolinite group
Laterite	A soil rich in Al and Fe, formed by extensive weathering and rich in clay minerals
Pelite	Historic term for a fine-grained sedimentary rock rich in clay minerals
Ripidolite	Historical name used for undetermined members of the chamosite-clinocllore series of chlorites
Saprolite	A chemically weathered rock, typically rich in clay minerals
Saprock	Fractured bedrock with alteration restricted to fracture zones; saprock lies below saprolite in a soil column.
Smectite-1	General term for dioctahedral (notably Al, Fe^{3+}) smectites
Smectite-2	General term for trioctahedral (notably Mg, Fe^{2+}) smectites
Steatite	Soapstone: a metamorphic rock rich in talc

